Hafa Adai!

Volume XXX, Issue No. 213
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Man critical after car slams into traffic signal light post. **PAGE 3**

Woman allegedly threatened man with box cutter. **PAGE 6**

Saipan Tribune

75¢

NEW CANOE SETS SAIL

NEIL FAMA

Non-profit organization 500 Sails continues with its mission to revive the maritime tradition in the Marianas by launching its newest canoe, *Dee Dee,* last Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Saipan Lagoon, together with three of their other previously built canoes, *Neni, Richard Seman,* and *Anaguan.* The launching ceremony took place at the Guma Sakman on the beach at the Civic Center in Susupe. 500 Sails executive director Peter J. Perez urges the public to take part in their swim, build, and sail programs, which are all free to the public. For more information, call (670) 322-4268 or email pperez@500Sails.org or you can follow their Facebook page and Instagram page @500Sails.

3,570 early votes so far

» **CEC team to leave Friday by boat to get 10 votes from Northern Islands**

» **7-day early election on Tinian, Rota starts today**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The 21-day early voting for Saipan and the Northern Islands enters its second week today, Tuesday, with 3,570 having already cast their votes as of Saturday—covering 11 days—at four polling places.

As this developed, Commonwealth Election Commission staff is planning to leave

See VOTES on **Page 4**

Humanities awards honor 4

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council honored four individuals at the 23rd Annual Governor's Humanities Awards last Saturday at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

See HUMANITIES on **Page 4**

4 more COVID-19 cases in NMI

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Four more newly-arrived travelers have tested positive for COVID-19, raising the CNMI's cumulative number of cases to 92.

The latest positive cases were identified by travel screening and had their diagnosis confirmed via the standard fifth day of testing af-

See COVID-19 on **Page 4**

DPS chief shuts down allegations of illegal use of govt facility

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Responding to allegations that the Department of Public Safety was illegally using its facilities to host a personal event, DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero assured yesterday that nothing about the wedding held on DPS grounds was against the law.

According to a news tip, DPS hosted a wedding recep-

See DPS on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Oct. 26, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,151	65	4,216
Recovered	2,503	0	2,503
Active	1,577	65	1,642
Deaths	69	3	72
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			63,107

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	88	4	92
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			19,345*

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases. The community-based testing has been temporarily suspended.

Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Former Mariana Resort & Spa chef Rico Delos Reyes opens D' Chef's Kitchen at Kada Dia.

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NATION
More people already have cast ballots in this year's presidential election than in 2016.

PAGE 12

ASIA
A typhoon forces thousands of villagers to flee to safety in provinces south of Manila.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OCT 13, 2020 – NOV 2, 2020 EARLY VOTING TO NOV 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION
VOTE FOR YOUR NMI DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES – UP & DOWN THE BALLOT
VOTE FOR KILILI & YOUR INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES FROM ROTA SEN. PAUL MANGLONA #2, & REP. DONALD MANGLONA #1
THIS GOVERNMENT BELONGS TO ALL OF US
& WE HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE IT
www.nmidems.org @nmidems
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS ★CNMI★ The People's Party

Local

'Online classes are still the safest way for my child to learn'

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite what is being touted as a low risk of contracting COVID-19 in the CNMI, two Public School System parents feel strongly about not having their children go back to school for face-to-face instruction because there is still a risk of COVID-19 exposure.

The two parents, who agreed to talk on the condition that they not be named, agree that they don't feel comfortable with their children attending face-to-face instruction.

Additionally, both parents are comfortable with online classes because, at the moment, it's a safer way for their child to learn without that risk of exposure. "I feel like online classes are great and the safest way for my child to learn. Also, the instructions for online classes are great and easy for my child to understand," said one male parent.

Both declined the Public School System's offer of an iPad and MiFi for their children because they have suitable technology and internet and would rather have someone else, who really needs it, to avail of the iPad and MiFi.

Their sentiments echo what majority said in a survey that PSS conducted among parents about their preferences in how PSS will conduct instruction for students.

Of the 1,174 parents who responded to the survey, 41.7% said they are uncomfortable with the idea of sending their children back to school for in-person instruction, while 26.1% said they are comfortable. Some 32.2% responded "neutral," which was interpreted to mean that these parents would be okay with either in-person or online instruction.

Bobby Cruz, Public School System-Instructional Technology and Distance Education director, presented the results of the survey at a virtual meeting organized by the Parents Advisory Committee last Oct. 24. The survey obtained a total of 1,568 responses: 1,174 from parents, 364 from teachers, and 34 from school administrators.

According to Cruz, the survey results will help PSS move forward in determining how the school system is going to "move into different modes of instructions." Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, said that the results will guide PSS as they carry out its hybrid and remote learning system.

Of the 1,174 parents who participated in the survey, 36.3% said they will not send their children to school because the parents believe there is still considerable risk; 28.4% said they will return their children to school when they are able to because they believe the risk will be managed; 16.9% said they have no choice but to return their children to school due to their work; and 6.2% said they have no choice but to return their children to school due to their work and they believe the risk will be managed.

After an inspection of all schools and assuming that all safety measures are in place, 37.6% of the 1,185 parents still prefer online instruction; 27.8% hybrid; and 31.4% prefer in-person classes. When asked if their children can access Blackboard Classroom or log on to live sessions, 94.7% said yes. Only 32.7% of the parents said they are satisfied with their child's remote learning experience.

Turn into a foodie on weekends at Aqua Resort Club

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Weekends are a dream trip for food lovers as Costa Terrace Restaurant of Aqua Resort Club welcomes everyone to their classic buffets and more. From tasty appetizers to belly-filling dishes and yummy desserts, family and friends will be treated to comfort food from different parts of the world.

According to ARC Food and Beverage manager Neil Metran, the feast starts on Fridays with Korean Banchan Night. "It features unlimited authentic Korean cuisine and free-flowing Budweiser and Bud Light. On Saturdays, we're bringing back our famous Seafood Night, featuring a variety of fresh seafood on ice, seafood live station, salad bar, hot entrees and more. Buffet includes free-flowing Budweiser and Bud Light, sodas, juices and coffee," he said.

"On Sundays, our 'Classic Sunday Brunch' is back, featuring roast pig, prime rib, a sushi and sashimi station, seafood on ice, salad bar, dessert station and more. Buffet includes free-flowing Budweiser and Bud Light, sparkling wine, sodas, juices and coffee," he added.

On Fridays, Aqua Resort Saipan plans to rotate themes periodically to offer exciting new cuisines. "We're starting with Korean to offer delicious authentic Korean cuisine…like Korean fried chicken, L.A. galbi (short ribs), kalbi-jim, and various banchan paired with free-flowing beer because we think it makes for a perfect Friday night out with friends," Metran said.

Aqua Resort Club has always been known for its Seafood Night and Sunday Brunch, "so we want to keep them constant and always improving. Expect all of our delicious classics with a beautiful bright panoramic ocean view," he added.

Aqua Resort Saipan reopened its Costa Terrace Restaurant with a buffet last Friday, Oct. 23. Regular price is $48 but, with 20% discount, the local price goes down to $38. "Everyone has been asking us to bring back our popular Seafood Night and Sunday Brunch, so we're excited to welcome everyone back," Metran said.

Foodies can enjoy Costa's ala carte menu during lunch on Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays, from 11am to 2pm. It offers fun new pizza flavors, such as chicken teriyaki and curry egg. Also available are classics such as Costa's tonkatsu, beef curry, loco moco, and more, Metran said

"Everyone has been anxious for us to reopen our doors, so reservations are filling up quick. …We are proud to welcome you all back to Costa Terrace Restaurant for delicious food, great service and your favorite buffets."

For more information or reservation, call (670) 322-1234.

ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
COSTA'S BUFFET IS BACK!
at Aqua Resort Club Saipan
KOREAN BANCHAN BUFFET
Enjoy an authentic Korean dinner buffet featuring delicious entrees, an unending variety of Banchan (Korean side dishes) and bottomless beer!
MASHITA!
FRIDAY • 6pm-9pm
Adults $38 | Children $19
SEAFOOD NIGHT BUFFET
Our popular Seafood Night Dinner Buffet is back! Indulge in all-you-can-eat Seafood appetizers, entrees, side dishes and a delicious desserts, All complimented with bottomless beer!
SATURDAY • 6pm-9pm
Adults $38 | Children $19
SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET
Treat your family & friends to a beautiful Champagne Sunday Brunch featuring a delicious buffet of international cuisines, free-flowing sparkling wine & a beautiful, bright beachfront view.
SUNDAY • 11am-2pm
Adults $38 | Children $19
Costa
Terrace Restaurant
Limited Seating Available, Reservations Recommended. Call (670) 322-1234 for Reservations & More Information
COSTA IS OPEN FOR LUNCH! • A La Carte Dining • Friday, Saturday & Monday • 11am-2pm

Man critical after car slams into traffic signal light post

On Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, at about 8:24pm, Highway Patrol Units of the Department of Public Safety were dispatched to a reported car crash at the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero and Chalan Tun Antonio Apa street light on As Terlaje hill.

At the scene, officers came upon a blue four-door sedan with extensive damage to the front end that had collided with the concrete base of the traffic signal light post. Officers found an unresponsive male in the driver's seat. Officers tried to get a response from the individual but could not get any, officers then checked to see if the operator had a pulse but did not find any.

Shortly after, a traffic investigator and medics from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services arrived at the scene and confirmed that the victim had no pulse and was not breathing. The victim was immediately extracted from the vehicle, medics immediately tried to revive the victim using chest compressions, and he was

See MAN on Next Page

Court issues conditional approval of IPI's request

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has issued a conditional approval for Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's request to deposit funds from an investor into an account to satisfy the court judgement in favor of Pacific Rim Land Development LLC.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has granted conditional approval to IPI's motion to deposit nearly $6 million of its investor's funds into a CNMI bank to secure the payment of judgment in favor of Pacific Rim.

However, Manglona ordered IPI to transfer the full amount authorized by its investor, Pacific International Property Management LLC, to attorney Colin Thompson's law office trust account pending further order from the court.

Manglona said the funds should be deposited no later than today, Oct. 27.

IPI recently asked the court to allow its investor to deposit nearly $6 million in a CNMI bank to secure the money for Pacific Rim as a better alternative to auctioning off its assets.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, IPI lawyer Michael Dotts said that, with this alternative, Pacific Rim is fully secured and no more harm needs to be done to IPI's business in the process of Pacific Rim executing on its judgment.

IPI has appealed the judgment so it is also asking the court to enter an order restricting the bank account designated to secure Pacific Rim.

Dotts said that, should IPI prevail on the appeal, the funds can be released back to the investor, and should Pacific Rim prevail on the appeal, then all restrictions placed on the funds can be lifted and Pacific Rim will be fully paid.

Thompson who represents Pacific Rim, sued IPI for breach of contract and breach of promissory note. Pacific Rim said IPI refused to pay for services in the amount of $5.65 million for substantially completed or completed agreed-upon construction work for the IPI casino-resort project on Sept. 30, 2018.

According to Pacific Rim, the unpaid balance due on the judgment is now not less than $5.52 million.

ON DPW'S NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS TO IPI

Sablan: Why was IPI allowed to proceed with project without OK'd construction documents

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Tina Sablan (D-Saipan) wants to know how long and why Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has been allowed to proceed with their casino construction project in Garapan without approved construction documents.

Sablan pointed out that commissioners of the Commonwealth Casino Commission stated at their board meeting last Tuesday that the Department of Public Works has been "trying" to get permit drawings from IPI for at least a year.

"But it appears that IPI has lacked complete, accurate, and certified drawings for much longer than that," said Sablan when asked for comments about DPW's issuance of the notice of violations to IPI.

Gani Salazar, representative/inspector of DPW's Building Safety Code Division, issued a notice to IPI last Oct. 9 about IPI's alleged violations pertaining to its construction project in Garapan. IPI project director Jing Zhou received the notice on that same day.

Sablan said they heard from three different former IPI contractors at the CCC meeting last Thursday that the building is unsafe, hazardous, not code compliant, and lacks certified construction drawings and qualified onsite inspectors.

"If IPI doesn't have permit drawings, how are they building to code? What are they building to? How are they getting inspections? And how long has DPW allowed this to happen?" Sablan asked.

When asked about Sablan's questions, IPI chief executive officer Donald Browne said yesterday that he's not involved with the issue but that Sablan's "best bet is to ask DPW."

Browne earlier stated that the DPW violations are essentially clerical issues and that they have provided the documents to the third-party engineer for submission to DPW.

According to the notice, IPI failed to provide approved construction documents. IPI allegedly failed to select and obtain approval for an approved agency (special inspector). IPI also allegedly failed to submit approved special inspector reports and tests from June 2019 up to the present.

NAP modifies distribution schedule for November

November will be a very short month for government services, with four legal holidays on Nov. 3 (Election Day), Nov. 4 (Citizenship Day), Nov. 11 (Veterans Day), and Nov. 26 (Thanksgiving).

Due to the short number of government work days, the Nutrition Assistance Program has modified the schedule for November. Distribution of benefits would still be issued through the drive-through procedures. The NAP appreciates the understanding of NAP households for the inconvenience this change in schedule may cause.

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Nov. 10	Tuesday	Case records ending with '9' and '0'

For questions contact the NAP office at 237-2842 or 2843. ***(PR)***

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HUMANITIES

From Page 1

This year's Governor's Humanities Award recipients were Stephanie Soder, Anita Ayuyu Sablan, Eusebio Camacho Borja, and Ambrose Bennett, who were all honored for the outstanding work they have done for the humanities.

Soder, a Delaware State Historic Preservation Office archaeologist, was honored for the Preservation of CNMI History. She first traveled to Saipan to participate in several historic projects while pursuing her master's degree in maritime archaeology. For her thesis, she researched the Chamorro and Carolinian post-World War II internment camps. In the process, she collected 30 oral histories from community members who had never before shared their stories or the stories of their family. Soder presented her findings at the American Memorial Park with the support of the Humanities Council.

Soder said she was truly honored that the community would find the work that she did worthy of the award. "You always hope that the research you do is meaningful and important to those who were part of it. Now I know that with this project," she said.

She credits the success of her findings to members of the CNMI community who were involved in her project. "I know this project would not have been successful if the community had not been so willing to be an active part of it. I know it took a lot of trust to invite me into their homes and share personal, and many times, difficult recollections. I hope that I can continue to conduct research in the CNMI that is significant to the community and help broaden the reach of the rich culture and history. Thank you again for this wonderful honor," she said.

Sablan, who was with the CNMI Public School System for 18 years, was awarded as Outstanding Humanities Teacher.

Sablan is an adviser for the Marianas High School POLKSAI Chamorro Club since 2007.

Sablan said she does all she can to encourage the youth to follow their passion and the path they want for their future. "With me, I've always dreamed to become a teacher someday and when I was a senior in MHS, they offered the Teacher Academy Program so I was a product of that program. That's when I felt education was my passion and my calling.

Edward Arriola Jr., right, receives on behalf of a former council board member the Service Award. Other in photo are Northern Marianas Humanities Council chair Robert T. Torres, left, and Council secretary/treasurer Tracy M. Guerrero. NEIL FAMA

Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan, left, and council chair Robert T. Torres, right, present the Outstanding Humanities Teacher Award to Marianas High School teacher and adviser Anita Ayuyu Sablan. NEIL FAMA

Eusebio Camacho Borja, second from right, joins his family on stage to receive the Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices Award. NEIL FAMA

Thank you so much, it's a lot of work but I do whatever I can to impact our children. They are our future and I want to make sure that they're ready for their own career as well," she said.

Borja, recognized by the CNMI government as the Master of Arts and Culture through Commonwealth Resolution 21-8, was honored for the Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices.

Borja was recognized for his work in preserving traditional cultural practices by promoting the use of traditional ox cart or the *karetan guaka* and his talents in domesticating livestock. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Humanities Council, the board members, the directors, supporters, and all those who came out today. I really thank you for supporting the humanities," he said.

Bennett, a former CNMI Board of Education member, teacher, author, and a staunch advocate for social equality, was awarded for Lifetime Achievements in the Humanities.

Bennett marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. For the CNMI, he authored several books and other educational resources that focused on the history and economics of Micronesia.

Bennett said he is extremely thankful and humbled by the award from the Humanities Council because the award is a "pinnacle point" in his life and his efforts to address and influence the many issues that have faced the youth and the CNMI.

"Being an activist for the people is not an easy job as there will always be someone against anyone who are trying to make things better for people. But I'm so thankful and fortunate that good always conquers evil. … What makes this award very special to me is that it is for trying to help the people and for that, I am so thankful," he said.

Bennett also thanked his wife and children who have supported his work. "I thank my wife Lillian for not only nominating me, but for literally changing my life. She is the reason I chose to come out here and raise a family and to be here in the CNMI," he said.

Former CNMI Board of Education member, teacher, author, and scholar Ambrose Bennett, center, joins his family on stage to receive the Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award. NEIL FAMA

According to Robert T. Torres, Humanities Council chairman, this year's awarding was special because they were able to host the event face-to-face, which is what humanities is all about—human interaction.

"The best thing about today is that we are not virtual, we are interacting, we are talking, we are communicating, we are engaging each other and that is really the heart of the humanities. We hope that the day will come again where we will no longer need to social distance from each other because the humanities is organic, it's tactile, you experience the humanities," he said.

COVID-19

From Page 1

ter arrival, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement.

The individuals have already been safely in quarantine and were moved to the designated isolation area at Kanoa Resort for monitoring.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

The CHCC statement said that 12 people are currently in isolation and 78 others have been released after consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Separately, Governor's Authorized Representative Patrick Guerrero said at the media briefing last Oct. 22 that they haven't been purchasing a lot of personal protective equipment since May when they took advantage of ordering in bulk, and that the CNMI has enough PPE's for the next three to six months.

COVID-19 on Guam

Guam has had two more COVID-19 deaths over the weekend, raising Guam's cumulative total of COVID-19-related fatalities to 72.

Guam's Joint Information Center was notified that Guam's 71st COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 2:07pm last Oct. 24. The patient was a 67-year-old male with underlying health conditions that were compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GRMC on Oct. 24 and tested positive upon admission.

Guam's 72nd COVID-19-related fatality occurred yesterday at the GRMC at approximately 10:25pm. The patient was a 28-year-old male with underlying health conditions complicated by COVID-19. He was admitted to GRMC on Oct. 25 and tested positive upon admission.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero described the 28-year-old victim as "too young—far too young," which means "no one is immune to this virus, that it has taken so much from not only the island, but everywhere around the world already, and it will continue to take if we do not remain vigilant."

"You may not feel sick, but the choices you make could be the difference between life and death for those around you," said Leon Guerrero.

DPS

From Page 1

tion on government grounds and had Department of Corrections inmates decorate the reception. *Saipan Tribune* went to the DPS Central Office in Susupe at 10am yesterday and confirmed that a wedding reception was being held between the DPS building and the DOC facility.

In a phone interview with Guerrero, he said there was nothing illegal about the function, adding that it was no different from a company lunch that is held in the office.

"When the department has, for example, a Thanksgiving lunch for all the officers, that's OK, right? So it's the same thing. The bride and groom, who are also officers, brought food to the station to celebrate their wedding. They didn't have anyone from outside the station on the guest list. It was just for the officers," he said.

When asked about funding for the reception and the manpower to decorate the area, Guerrero said the money came from the bride and groom's pockets and the individuals who helped decorate were fellow police officers who took leave voluntarily, to help out.

"No public funds were used for this event, it was all from the bride and groom. The people that helped out to decorate were officers who were on leave," he said.

Guerrero argues that it isn't illegal to host a wedding reception at the department, citing that it isn't illegal to have a wedding at the Saipan Mayor's Office or the Office of Governor that are also government facilities.

"Are all the weddings held at the mayor's office and the governor's office illegal? So why would it be illegal to have one at DPS when the governor administered the oath?" he asked.

VOTES

From Page 1

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MAN

From Page 3

rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center. CHC Emergency Room staff managed to revive the victim and he was later moved to the intensive care unit and listed in critical condition.

Officers later learned from the on-duty physician that no serious injuries were found other than a few fractured ribs, lung contusion (which could have been caused by fractured ribs), and cardiac arrest. At this time, the driver remains in critical condition under ICU and is being monitored by CHC staff. ***(DPS)***

HUMANITIES

From Page 1

This year's Governor's Humanities Award recipients were Stephanie Soder, Anita Ayuyu Sablan, Eusebio Camacho Borja, and Ambrose Bennett, who were all honored for the outstanding work they have done for the humanities.

Soder, a Delaware State Historic Preservation Office archaeologist, was honored for the Preservation of CNMI History. She first traveled to Saipan to participate in several historic projects while pursuing her master's degree in maritime archaeology. For her thesis, she researched the Chamorro and Carolinian post-World War II internment camps. In the process, she collected 30 oral histories from community members who had never before shared their stories or the stories of their family. Soder presented her findings at the American Memorial Park with the support of the Humanities Council.

Soder said she was truly honored that the community would find the work that she did worthy of the award. "You always hope that the research you do is meaningful and important to those who were part of it. Now I know that with this project," she said.

She credits the success of her findings to members of the CNMI community who were involved in her project. "I know this project would not have been successful if the community had not been so willing to be an active part of it. I know it took a lot of trust to invite me into their homes and share personal, and many times, difficult recollections. I hope that I can continue to conduct research in the CNMI that is significant to the community and help broaden the reach of the rich culture and history. Thank you again for this wonderful honor," she said.

Sablan, who was with the CNMI Public School System for 18 years, was awarded as Outstanding Humanities Teacher.

Sablan is an adviser for the Marianas High School POLKSAI Chamorro Club since 2007.

Sablan said she does all she can to encourage the youth to follow their passion and the path they want for their future. "With me, I've always dreamed to become a teacher someday and when I was a senior in MHS, they offered the Teacher Academy Program so I was a product of that program. That's when I felt education was my passion and my calling.

Edward Arriola Jr., right, receives on behalf of a former council board member the Service Award. Other in photo are Northern Marianas Humanities Council chair Robert T. Torres, left, and Council secretary/treasurer Tracy M. Guerrero. NEIL FAMA

Humanities Council executive director Leo Pangelinan, left, and council chair Robert T. Torres, right, present the Outstanding Humanities Teacher Award to Marianas High School teacher and adviser Anita Ayuyu Sablan. NEIL FAMA

Eusebio Camacho Borja, second from right, joins his family on stage to receive the Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices Award. NEIL FAMA

Thank you so much, it's a lot of work but I do whatever I can to impact our children. They are our future and I want to make sure that they're ready for their own career as well," she said.

Borja, recognized by the CNMI government as the Master of Arts and Culture through Commonwealth Resolution 21-8, was honored for the Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices.

Borja was recognized for his work in preserving traditional cultural practices by promoting the use of traditional ox cart or the *karetan guaka* and his talents in domesticating livestock. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Humanities Council, the board members, the directors, supporters, and all those who came out today. I really thank you for supporting the humanities," he said.

Bennett, a former CNMI Board of Education member, teacher, author, and a staunch advocate for social equality, was awarded for Lifetime Achievements in the Humanities.

Bennett marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. For the CNMI, he authored several books and other educational resources that focused on the history and economics of Micronesia.

Bennett said he is extremely thankful and humbled by the award from the Humanities Council because the award is a "pinnacle point" in his life and his efforts to address and influence the many issues that have faced the youth and the CNMI.

"Being an activist for the people is not an easy job as there will always be someone against anyone who are trying to make things better for people. But I'm so thankful and fortunate that good always conquers evil. … What makes this award very special to me is that it is for trying to help the people and for that, I am so thankful," he said.

Bennett also thanked his wife and children who have supported his work. "I thank my wife Lillian for not only nominating me, but for literally changing my life. She is the reason I chose to come out here and raise a family and to be here in the CNMI," he said.

Former CNMI Board of Education member, teacher, author, and scholar Ambrose Bennett, center, joins his family on stage to receive the Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities Award. NEIL FAMA

According to Robert T. Torres, Humanities Council chairman, this year's awarding was special because they were able to host the event face-to-face, which is what humanities is all about—human interaction.

"The best thing about today is that we are not virtual, we are interacting, we are talking, we are communicating, we are engaging each other and that is really the heart of the humanities. We hope that the day will come again where we will no longer need to social distance from each other because the humanities is organic, it's tactile, you experience the humanities," he said.

DPS

From Page 1

tion on government grounds and had Department of Corrections inmates decorate the reception. *Saipan Tribune* went to the DPS Central Office in Susupe at 10am yesterday and confirmed that a wedding reception was being held between the DPS building and the DOC facility.

In a phone interview with Guerrero, he said there was nothing illegal about the function, adding that it was no different from a company lunch that is held in the office.

"When the department has, for example, a Thanksgiving lunch for all the officers, that's OK, right? So it's the same thing. The bride and groom, who are also officers, brought food to the station to celebrate their wedding. They didn't have anyone from outside the station on the guest list. It was just for the officers," he said.

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COVID-19

From Page 1

ter arrival, according to a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. statement.

The individuals have already been safely in quarantine and were moved to the designated isolation area at Kanoa Resort for monitoring.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

The CHCC statement said that 12 people are currently in isolation and 78 others have been released after consultation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Separately, Governor's Authorized Representative Patrick Guerrero said at the media briefing last Oct. 22 that they haven't been purchasing a lot of personal protective equipment since May when they took advantage of ordering in bulk, and that the CNMI has enough PPE's for the next three to six months.

COVID-19 on Guam

Guam has had two more COVID-19 deaths over the weekend, raising Guam's cumulative total of COVID-19-related fatalities to 72.

Guam's Joint Information Center was notified that Guam's 71st COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City at approximately 2:07pm last Oct. 24. The patient was a 67-year-old male with underlying health conditions that were compounded by COVID-19. He was admitted to GRMC on Oct. 24 and tested positive upon admission.

Guam's 72nd COVID-19-related fatality occurred yesterday at the GRMC at approximately 10:25pm. The patient was a 28-year-old male with underlying health conditions complicated by COVID-19. He was admitted to GRMC on Oct. 25 and tested positive upon admission.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero described the 28-year-old victim as "too young—far too young," which means "no one is immune to this virus, that it has taken so much from not only the island, but everywhere around the world already, and it will continue to take if we do not remain vigilant."

"You may not feel sick, but the choices you make could be the difference between life and death for those around you," said Leon Guerrero.

MAN

From Page 3

rushed to the Commonwealth Health Center. CHC Emergency Room staff managed to revive the victim and he was later moved to the intensive care unit and listed in critical condition.

Officers later learned from the on-duty physician that no serious injuries were found other than a few fractured ribs, lung contusion (which could have been caused by fractured ribs), and cardiac arrest. At this time, the driver remains in critical condition under ICU and is being monitored by CHC staff. ***(DPS)***

NMC employees elect new Staff Senate members

Daisie Camacho-Renguul

Diana Hocog

Geri Rodgers

Jean Castro

Kyanna Tenorio

Malyssa Castro

Polly Omechelang

Roxanne Torres

Ryan Calvo

Staff members of the Northern Marianas College recently elected new members to its Staff Senate.

The Staff Senate serves as the official representative body of the college's administrative and support staff. Primarily focused on addressing general staff issues and in making corresponding recommendations to the NMC president, the Senate is an important part of the college's participative governance structure.

Part of the Staff Senate's responsibilities includes assisting in determining the need for, initiating and developing, and reviewing policies that affect the staff.

The new Staff Senate officers and members are:

Executive Committee:

■ President: Geri Rodgers, Budget and Finance Committee, College Council

■ Vice president: Diana Hocog (sits on Program Review, and Outcome Assessment Committee representing Rota Center), Action

■ Secretary: Malyssa Castro, Action, Policy

■ Treasurer: Kyanna Tenorio, BAFC

Senators-at-large:

■ Ryan Calvo, College Council, Policy

■ Daisie Camacho-Renguul, Policy

■ Jean Castro, PROAC (in lieu of Diana), Action

■ Polly Omechelang, Action

■ Roxanne Torres, Ad Hoc, Policy

"I'm excited to serve as a senator for the staff," said Rodgers. "Our vision is to continue the work of increasing staff morale. We have plans to support the college's mission, to build up one another, and to have a great time working at NMC."

"I would like to congratulate the newest members of NMC's Staff Senate," NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said. "The new senators all possess extensive experience and are all very much committed to NMC's mission. I look forward to working and collaborating with the newly elected staff senators." ***(NMC)***

Candidates at a Glance

The Saipan Tribune will be coming out with a supplement,

#voteCNMI

in October 29 featuring candidates in the November election.

Spread your message to reach the people WHO VOTE.

Reserve your spot now!

For more information, please call 235-8747 and look for **Beth**, **Donna** or **Alyssa**

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Tel.: (670) 235-8747/6397/2769 • Fax: (670) 235-3740 • www.saipantribune.com

WORLD RESORT SAIPAN

HALLOWEEN

3 Days Promotion

October 30, 31 & November 01, 2020

THE BUFFET WORLD

Friday, Oct 30

*Halloween Dinner (6pm to 7pm) $30 Adults
-Upgraded Menu w/Roast Beef , Roast Pig & more
-Unlimited Beer & Ice tea $15 Kids (4-11 yrs)

*FREE Halloween Fun Night (Royal Taga Hall-7pm to 9pm)
-Play games, win prizes and watch movie
-For Dine in Guest only
-Candies Available for kids

*Dinner Plus Water Park package
$42 Adults
$25 Kids (4-11 yrs)
-Show receipt to our Water Park cashier to avail discount
-Discount applies only to number of people on receipts
-PROMOTION PERIOD OCT 31-NOV 01 ONLY (2 days)

Saturday Oct 31 & Sunday Nov 01

Wave Jungle

*Buffet World Lunch
-Play our mystery box to win prizes

*Water Park Promotion
-Free Usage of our Inflatable Walking ball
- Free tattoo

*Splash Card Available
-For Water Park Guest only
-Cannot be use with packages or with other promotion

For Reservations please call 234-5900

Woman allegedly threatened man with box cutter

The Superior Court has imposed a $15,000 cash bail on a woman who was arrested for allegedly threatening a man with a box cutter.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $15,000 cash bail on Yaping She for an alleged attempt to assault a man with a box cutter last week in Susupe.

Bogdan remanded She to the Department of Corrections and ordered her to return to court on Oct. 28 at 9am for a preliminary hearing and on Nov. 10 at 9am for an arraignment.

She, who was charged with assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace, was represented by assistant public defender Vina Seelam, while assistant attorney general Erin Toolan appeared for the government.

According court documents, the victim was outside a massage parlor establishment when he saw She heading toward him. The victim said he greeted her and that She allegedly responded that she was going to cut him.

She, who had a yellow box cutter in her right hand, allegedly lunged at the victim several times with the box cutter. The victim said She also pulled down her face mask and threatened to spit on him. The victim then called the police.

When police arrived, the two responding officers repeatedly told She to drop the box cutter but she allegedly refused to do so and also reportedly bad-mouthed the officers.

One of the officers pulled out his firearm but pointed it at the ground before again instructing She to put the box cutter down. That was when She put the box cutter down and was then arrested. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Wanted: Ronald Jr. Leon Guerrero Ealey

Ealey

The Department of Public Safety is seeking the public's help in locating Ronald Jr. Leon Guerrero Ealey, who is wanted for an alleged theft incident that occurred at a tire shop in Kagman.

On Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2020, at about 3:08pm, police responded to a theft incident that was reported at the Sun Star tire shop in Kagman. A tire shop employee told police that a local male, later identified as Ealey, had gone to the tire shop on two separate occasions earlier in the day. The tire shop's hydraulic jack went missing soon after Ealey's second visit. Upon reviewing the surveillance camera, it showed Ealey turning the camera to a different angle, but another camera captured him carrying the hydraulic jack to his vehicle before fleeing the scene.

On Friday, October 23, 2020, at about 2:30pm, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio issued an arrest warrant for Ealey for the charge of theft, with bail set at $5,000.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of Ealey should contact the Criminal Bureau of Investigation at 664-9064 or 911. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruptions

There will be scheduled power interruptions on Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020, and on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020, both from 9am to 1pm, to allow linemen of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to safely replace one rotted primary power pole and deteriorated hardware and cutouts on the distribution grid in Kagman and Sadog Tasi.

The Thursday outage will affect the Sadog Tasi Drive, while the Friday outage will affect Kagman 3- Phase 1. No water well(s) or wastewater lift station(s) will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation). ***(PR)***

Daniel T. Guidotti
Bridge Capital Building
Micro Beach Road, Garapan
PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 322-2222 | Fax: (670) 322-2323
Email: *dtguidott@bccnmi.com*

Attorney for Plaintiff Bridge Capital, LLC

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC, Plaintiff, v. SYLVAN O. IGISOMAR, Defendant.) Civil Case No. 20-0104 **FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

Plaintiff Bridge Capital, LLC (**"Bridge"**) hereby gives notice that, in order to satisfy sums due pursuant to the stipulated judgment entered June 12, 2020 in favor of Bridge, and pursuant to the Court Order dated September 8, 2020 authorizing a foreclosure sale (the "**Sale Order**"), the auctioneer designated in the Sale Order will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.,** the following parcel of real property:
Lot 1944NEW-1-R2, situated at Chalan Laulau, Saipan, containing an area of 22,589 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat no. 2031/10, the original of which was recorded May 26, 2010 under File No. 10-888 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan (the "**Property**").

PARTIAL TERMS OF SALE
1. **Auction Location.** The auction will be held in the first floor conference room of the Bridge Capital building located at Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.
2. **Auction Procedure.** The auctioneer designated by the Court will conduct an auction via competitive bidding. The bidding will remain open until the auctioneer declares that the bidding is closed. If a dispute arises between bidders, the auctioneer shall make the final decision either to determine the successful bidder or to resell the Property.
3. **Auctioneer's Rights.** The auctioneer may do any of the following: (1) withdraw the Property from sale at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; (2) adjourn the auction without notice, at any time before the auctioneer accepts a winning bid; (3) reject any bid, for any reason; or (4) expel a bidder from the auction location.
4. **Bids.** Bidders may submit bids in advance for the Property. These bids will not be binding. The highest advance bid will become the opening bid for the Property on the day of the auction. During the bidding, bidders may make bids in person or by telephone.
5. **Reserve Price.** The reserve price for the property is $550,000.00.
6. **Deposit.** The successful bidder shall provide to Bridge an earnest money deposit, by check, cashier's check, or money order, equal to 10.00% of the winning bid amount (the "**Deposit**"). Bridge will apply the Deposit toward the amount of the winning bid. If the winning bidder fails to deliver the Deposit to Bridge before 5:00 p.m. on the day of the auction, the winning bidder's bid will be deemed to be automatically rejected, without further notice to the winning bidder. A bidder who bids by telephone shall comply with the deposit requirement.
7. **Sale Terms.** The winning bidder shall pay the full amount of the winning bid to Seller, by check, cashier's check, or money order, no later than 10 business days after winning the auction. The closing will occur at Seller's office at Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan. The sale will be closed by Daniel T. Guidotti, Seller's attorney. The winning bidder may request that the closing proceed through escrow, subject to the winning bidder paying 100% of all escrow fees.
8. **Property Sold "AS-IS WHERE IS."** The Property is being sold in "AS IS WHERE IS" condition. Bridge and the auctioneer make no representations, express or implied, with respect to the Property regarding title, area, location, suitability of the Property for any particular purpose, the existence or condition of any improvements situated on the leased Property, or the existence or non-existence of any conditions that might affect development of the Property (such as zoning, hazardous waste, historical preservation issues, threatened or endangered species, and wetlands).
9. **Changes to Auction Terms.** Either Bridge or the auctioneer may change or add to these terms or any additional terms prior to or at the auction. An oral announcement made at the auction will supersede anything in writing, including these terms. All changes made in this manner will be binding on the winning bidder.
10. **Additional Terms.** Additional terms apply. Interested bidders may obtain these additional terms from the attorney for Bridge, Attorney Daniel T. Guidotti. Bidders may request this information by telephone at (670) 322-2222 or via email at dtguidotti@bccnmi.com. All bidders are responsible for knowing these additional terms prior to bidding on the Property.

Bartley A. Jackson
Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547 | FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of MARCELA UNTALAN HOFSCHNEIDER, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 04-0564

THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 2, 2016, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property: Lot no. 101 T 14 (part of original Lot 101 T 05), situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands.

Total Area of the property: 11,537 square meters

Known encumbrances: None

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, November 13, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public. A copy of a title insurance report for the property is available to any prospective bidder upon request.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 6th day of October, 2020:

DATED, this 6th day of October, 2020:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP21-CHCC/0D2A-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 25, 2020 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)
"CREATIVE DIGITAL AND PRINT SERVICES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

General and Operations Manager; Bach deg in Commerce; Management (may be foreign equiv); 2 years exp as or supervisory level exp in painting industry. Provide operation & organization direction to ensure efficient & economically sound operations, set and review budgets & manage cost for construction material supply & paint co. located in Saipan, CNMI. Hire and train staff, perform employee evaluation, assign daily task and resolve problems. Responsible for sales reports/forecasts, inventory reports and financial reports to mgmt. Send resume to: Full Circle Saipan, LLC, P.O. Box 502838, Saipan MP 96950

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028 Revision No.2

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi WTTP Clarifier in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of; installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and effluent launder box, construction of a sloped concrete floor, and other miscellaneous features. The work shall include; the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier, routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period, and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set. If you have purchased this IFB before you do not have to repurchase but you would need to register with our office to receive a package.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **October 29, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier Revision No. 2" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) November 17, 2020,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on November 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer and to CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician, Christie L. Sablan at christie.sablan@cucugov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

DESIGN/BUILD FOR THE SEAPORT MARINA IMPROVEMENTS
TINIAN HARBOR
CPA PROJECT NO. CPA-TS-001-20

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the design and construction of improvements to the seaport marina at the Tinian Harbor. The work shall include all design, materials, labor, equipment and construction services necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout provided in the proposal package.

The Scope of Work (SOW) outlining the project's general requirements may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, November 20, 2020 at 10:00 am** at the CPA Tinian Seaport Office at the Tinian Harbor to discuss the project scope of work in detail. A site inspection will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Attendance at this conference is not mandatory.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport, or via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or cpa.engr@pticom.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 27, 2020. All responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who have picked up a proposal package.

Proposers are requested to submit one original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "*Design/Build for Seaport Marina Improvement, Tinian Harbor, Tinian, CPA-TS-001-20*". Proposals must be submitted no later than **5:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: October 23, 2020

WSR celebrates 45th anniversary of NMI joining the US

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Staff and employees of the William S. Reyes Elementary School celebrated last Oct. 23 at their campus in Chalan Kanoa the United Nations' 75th anniversary and the 45th anniversary of the Northern Mariana Islands' decision to join the United States.

According to WSR librarian Arthur Sondheim, United Nations General Assembly president Volkan Bozkir, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada had videotaped messages that were played at the event.

As part of the celebration, WSR teachers and staff formed a human chain to form the letters "UN," while waving flags of 75 nations that represents the 75 charter members. Sondheim said that there are approximately 193 flags being flown at the UN headquarters in New York representing each nation that have joined the United Nations since being founded in 1975.

According to WSR principal Lynn Mendiola, celebrating the UN anniversary is important because the United Nations' charter recognizes student rights. "The UN also includes student rights, [that] students have the right to education…and, of course, the right to play and to enjoy their childhood," said Mendiola.

JUSTINE NAUTA

The William S. Reyes Elementary School teachers and staff pose after the videotaped speeches of current United Nations General Assembly president Volkan Bozkir, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Education Commissioner, Dr. Alfred Ada, and the waving of flags, in celebration of the CNMI-USA United Nation's 45th anniversary last Friday at the WSR campus in Chalan Kanoa.

In a press statement about the event, WSR said that United Nations Day has been a global holiday since Pacific Trust Territory times across Micronesia. It has been celebrated across the globe for years and this year is a very special 75th anniversary. "Forty-five years ago this year, the overwhelming majority of Northern Mariana Islanders voted to join the United States of America in a United Nations-sponsored plebiscite," said WSR.

In his videotaped message, Bozkir said that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the CNMI is not alone in "tackling the world's problem but we, a combination of 193 nation, will come together to help each other."

He pointed out that, 45 years ago, the CNMI's grandparents and great-grandparents participated in a supervised vote by the United Nations that paved the way for the future of the CNMI. "Helping people make these choices remains a central part of the world of the United Nations today. We all have a part to play in fostering a peaceful and fairer world," said Bozkir, adding that young people are not just the leaders tomorrow but also the leaders of today.

In his message, Sablan said the United Nations is more than ever needed these days to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, and promote social progress, better living standards, and human rights.

Ada gave thanks to the CNMI's forefathers "for paving the way to a promising future for the Northern Mariana Islands and all the quality of education that we are enjoying today. I would like to wish both the CNMI and the United Nations a happy anniversary. God bless America. God bless the CNMI," he said.

WSR school counselor Rebecca Flores stated that the lessons of the UN in "shaping peace together" have also to be taught to students, like peaceful ways to settle conflicts, and how they should interact with each other.

She also underscored the importance of teaching students about social emotional learning, which refers to processes or activities that help students and adults learn how to be aware of the environment, personal awareness, self-regulation, and emotion management.

IN THE TIME OF COVID-19
Anniversary
EDITOR'S NOTE
Adventures on land and sea
THE USUAL SUSPECTS
BEA CABRERA
IVA B. MAURIN
JASON B. MIYASHITA
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
JUSTINE NAUTA
MARK RABAGO
WATERWORLD
triathlon+ janetking
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TAGA plus is now online!
The CNMI's premier sports, business, and lifestyle magazine is now available on https://tagaplus.saipantribune.com/
Advertise with TAGA Plus! For more information, please call 235-8747 and look for Beth, Donna or Alyssa

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

Censorious Facebook

Counter speech doctrine posits that the best remedy for negative or inaccurate speech is more accurate, positive speech.

There are exceptions to this rule of thumb, of course, including obscenity and fraud and speech that incites imminent lawless action. Generally, though, offensive and inaccurate speech is protected.

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg needs reminding of this fact. As of Oct. 12, his company began banning content that "denies or distorts the Holocaust." The decision comes on the heels of new sanctions against the QAnon conspiracy theory, effectively banning such content from the platform.

Both are examples of the darker side of the First Amendment. Holocaust denialism is asinine, offensive and alarmingly prevalent during a sharp rise in anti-Semitism. QAnon, a pro-Trump conspiracy theory, is often baseless, often distasteful and has been linked to real-world criminal activity.

Add to this mix some studies indicating that more outrageous fringe content earns the lion's share of interactions on social platforms, ensuring that it is shared often and widely.

Facebook is a private company and has the right to make such sweeping bans to objectionable content.

But how does this serve democracy?

If there's one way to increase attention to an idea or movement, it's to conspicuously hide it from the public eye.

If there's one way to ensure that someone's frankly terrible ideas remain unchallenged, it's to banish them to the darker recesses of internet message boards.

If individuals' hurt feelings are taken into consideration in evaluating free speech doctrine, America is being shaken to its very core.

The legislature and court system have crafted over the past two centuries careful, scalpel-precision exceptions. The original counter speech doctrine dates back to 1927, but Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy reiterated the ethos as recently as 2012, writing: "The remedy for speech that is false is speech that is true. This is the ordinary course in a free society. The response to the unreasoned is the rational; to the uninformed, the enlightened; to the straight-out lie, the simple truth."

Facebook should not be in the business of censoring speech. Fact-checking content if it can be done with transparent, consistent standards is far more reasonable.

The social media giant isn't a news site but an aggregator — it doesn't produce original content but disseminates individuals' and companies' content. As soon as it begins banning or "shadow banning," de-emphasizing certain kinds of content in the algorithms that determine how widely certain content spreads on the platform, the company becomes a de facto arbiter of truth.

No matter how distasteful the banned subjects might be, part of living in a free society includes extending that freedom to fringe groups and conspiracy theorists. Facebook should reverse its decision and highlight problematic content through fact-checkers. Counter speech doctrine must hold.

Free speech must be protected.

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Judge ©2020 KING FEATURES
"SO REMEMBER...ABORTION, SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND SMOKING MARIJUANA SHOULD BE OUTLAWED, BUT WE OPPOSE FACE MASK MANDATES BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN PERSONAL FREEDOM."

Report to the people

Editor's Note: The following is being published in several parts due to its length.

Second part of a series

By TINA SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Christina Marie Sablan is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives of the 21st Legislature.

On the health front, I worked with my colleagues in committee and with Medicaid staff and advisers on amendments to Senate legislation that formally established the CNMI Medicaid Agency and, significantly, authorized the development of an affordable buy-in program for residents who currently lack health insurance and are not qualified for regular Medicaid (Public Law 21-28). I also worked with colleagues and CHCC to develop language inserted into the appropriations acts that directs the agency to conduct a feasibility study and report to the Legislature on policy options for universal health coverage in the CNMI (Public Law 21-35). To ensure a safe 2020 midterm election, I worked with members in the House and Senate, and with the Election Commission, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Public Auditor to draft amendments that were incorporated into a Senate bill adjusting election procedures to mitigate the health risks associated with COVID-19 (Public Law 21-34).

Other public laws that I co-sponsored and helped draft: the Animal Protection Act, to prohibit animal cruelty (Public Law 21-31), and legislation restricting the deduction of unpaid gambling debt from gross revenue, which clarified our tax law and closed a potentially damaging loophole (Public Law 21-26).

Passed the House: I co-sponsored and wrote legislation to authorize the governor to freeze evictions, foreclosures, and rent increases during declared disasters and emergencies (House Bill 21-112); drafted amendments that were adopted into the Landlord-Tenant Act (H.B. 21-79); co-sponsored and drafted amendments that were adopted into a bill to provide civil remedies for unauthorized disclosure of intimate images (H.B. 21-107); co-sponsored and drafted amendments that were adopted into legislation to redesignate the annual casino license fee to pay the 25% portion of retiree pensions (H.B. 21-76); and co-sponsored a bill to increase penalties for government-funded first-class travel (H.B. 21-110). Additionally, I worked with colleagues on the Gaming Committee, and with the Commonwealth Casino Commission, to develop amendments that were adopted into legislation enhancing the CCC's enforcement authority and providing for greater disclosure and accountability requirements (H.B. 21-11).

Referred to committee: I introduced bills to strengthen the independence of the Office of the Public Auditor and enhance the agency's capacity to deter, detect, and investigate waste, fraud, and abuse of public funds (H.B. 21-58); to require the Secretary of Finance to make timely transfers of funds to the Public School System (H.B. 21-100); and to impose a local gaming tax on the Saipan casino (House Local Bill 21-23). I also co-sponsored the Hate Crimes Act to provide enhanced sentencing penalties for crimes motivated by hate (H.B. 21-125); the COVID-19 Transparency and Accountability Act to require more rigorous reporting on the use of federal funds to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic (H.B. 21-114); and the Live Streaming Video Act to require government bodies to make their public meetings available online (H.B. 21-7).

I believe that nearly as important as the bills I have supported are the bills I have opposed. I have made a consistent effort in this term to explain for the record, on the floor and in statements after sessions, why I opposed certain legislative proposals. For example, I objected to unlimited reprogramming authority granted to the governor because I see it as a dangerous precedent and an abdication of our constitutional legislative responsibilities. I voted against a bill to legalize online gaming because of serious concerns about local enforcement capabilities, worsening problem gambling in our community, and potential violations of the federal Wire Act. I also opposed the transfer of administration of American Memorial Park to the CNMI government, because I value our partnership with the National Park Service and the significant federal resources made available every year to manage the park, including the visitors center, memorial grounds, facilities and infrastructure, and education and outreach programs.

Oversight is a critical function of the Legislature, and I take that responsibility seriously. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee, I have asked department heads to explain spending decisions, furlough decisions, impacts of austerity, and the status of implementation of laws and programs in their purview. As a member of the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee, I

See REPORT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Why I am running for office

Staffler

Dear voters of Precinct 5 and the CNMI: Many people have asked me, why did you decide to run for office? Why would you give up a secure position with good pay and benefits? Why would you take a $20,000 pay cut? Don't you think the kids need you still? All of these are valid questions. For any big decision, knowing why is really important to understand a person›s motivations and values. Let me tell you my whys.

I decided to run for office because I was compelled to act on my calling to public service. People always say they wish they had good choices of who to vote for. Candidates who are not motivated by self-interest. Candidates who will be prudent with our islands' finances. Candidates who have plans to improve the lives of the people who live in our communities. Candidates who can evaluate, analyze, and synthesize information to be data-driven decision makers. Candidates who have vision. I know, I am one of those candidates.

This is why I run.

Wherever I go, I hear people share the same things when we meet. Whether it is at the PTSA or in the aisle at the store, or at the picnic table by the beach; people always share common sense ideas and expectations of our government. Things like providing more access to services, such as coordinating islandwide trash collection or installing additional transfer stations to help alleviate illegal dumping. People ask things like, why is it government officials don't already regularly publish what public funds were spent on which public purposes? This kind of transparency is the kind of internal control that compels fiscal responsibility. I got tired of hearing complaints and decided I wanted to be part of the solution.

This is why I run.

I run, because for the last couple of years the Public School System has been on austerity, getting cut after cut. What is one more when everyone else is suffering? I felt helpless, after 18 years of service in the system, with my principal colleagues and with my school teams. I felt indignation that my students were getting shortchanged because I recognize there is a disconnect. Education is a service industry. Service industries require human resources. The human resources of education are the teachers, support staff, and administration that provide the structure and support that schools require in order to provide a top-notch education. This affects all students, all teachers, and all families that we serve. Because I have experienced so many roles within the Public School System, I know I will bring a broader understanding of the needs of our schools to the decision-making table.

People who say the kids still need me are right. They need leaders like me more than ever, to help get us back on track financially so that we can continue the great work being done at the schools which has made PSS the leaders in education in the Pacific.

This is why I run.

I run because many people have said—you never know until you try. I want to try because I am a collaborator, a connector, a mediator, a diplomat. I am a creative, a thinker, a visionary, a planner. Most of all, am a doer. I run because I believe I can help improve the lives of our people and our communities, like I have helped others navigate transitions in their life. A man I met while going house to house, he said, you never know until you try.

This is why I run.

Leila Staffler

Democrat response

By DANIEL O. QUITUGUA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A few weeks ago, the chairman of the Republican Party, James Ada, took a stand against Rep. Tina Sablan for factually pointing out dishonest and unethical acts committed by Gov. Torres. The information she provided were all documented and not based on hearsay. Rather than educate the public with his disagreement on the merit of the facts, as presented by the representative, he engaged in misinformation, innuendos, and defamation of her character.

The chairman's op-ed on the representative's fidelity to our citizen's right to know the facts about our government and its leaders speaks well of the very essence he was trying to dispel—Republican leadership just can't handle the truth. His attempt to divert away from the facts ironically cast aspersion on his real motive which is, "subversive coverup."

Diverting away from the facts, coverup and vilifying citizens who speak the truth is a political ploy unhinged Republicans and their dominions are so good at. They mastered their trade by portraying someone as evil, or as worthy of contempt or blame in order to defend against any potential threat to their power. Thankfully, though, our people are finally standing up against corruption, dishonesty, self-enrichment, and widespread nepotism, not to mention sheer incompetence.

The dreadfulness of the current leadership conduct is so deplorable that lifelong Republicans who are against corruption in our government are now speaking out. Not only are they speaking out freely, they are lending support to Democrats throughout the Commonwealth to help bring economic stability and financial prudency, put a stop on predatory self-enrichment scams, and restore decency and dignity in the people's government.

No matter how hard the chairman tries to spin the fact that Gov. Torres is a dishonest and unethical leader, by smearing Rep. Tina Sablan's reputation for publicly exposing the governor's misdeeds, people are just plain tired of all the financial shenanigans and public disdain. No amount of political spinning, by the chairman or anyone else, would change the fact that our people have already formed their opinion about Gov. Torres.

Shooting the messenger may be a time-honored emotional response to unwanted news, but it is not a very effective phycology on the well-informed. While we are on the opposite side of the political divide, I consider the chairman a friend and I wonder if he is not be in favor of the truth? Unless, of course, he is also part of the problem.

I hate to disappoint the chairman, but his effort and those of the governor's enablers are fruitless because Rep. Tina Sablan has an impeccable character, integrity, and genuine sincerity. A woman and a leader of impeccable character, her quiet and inoffensive manner endears her to all who have the pleasure of knowing her. Tina Sablan is just the opposite of the person the chairman adores.

By the way, the chairman still hasn't responded to our January letter calling for a public forum between his party and the Democratic Party on the issues of mismanagement and corruption in government. That letter was hand-delivered by me to his office couple of months after the governor was subpoenaed by the FBI.

Daniel O. Quitugua is vice chairman of the CNMI Democratic Party.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Vote for continued progress

Hafa adai and *tirow*! It is that time of the year again to exercise our voting rights and to put our hopes and trust on those of our choosing on the ballot. Since I've returned home, I have been employed under the current administration and have also worked very closely with honorable incumbents of the Republican party.

I have been pleased with my experience in working with people that's keeping our Marianas strong. Progress happens swiftly when people are genuinely committed and determined to work toward achieving the objectives of our goal(s). Naturally, there are hurdles in projects, but above all, progress ensues when everyone's aimed at resolving obstacles and focused on what needs to be accomplished. When people work together, things get done.

This administration has endured unimaginable disaster after disaster and we're still working toward progress. We don't have the luxury to take a break and appreciate our hard work thus far. We're still having to deal with compounded adversities that's been extremely challenging or too complex beyond our profession. However, we have continued to be hard at work and focused on building together with the right people, who are just as determined to see progress.

There are two branches of the government that deal with our local economy, and swift progress happens when these two working together. This working relationship between the Legislature and the Executive Branch is especially crucial in times of disaster and emergency as they both have critical roles that impact the livelihood of our community. And in the last three elections and through our unprecedented disasters, this joint effort was critical in our headway today. Yes, there is still much work to be done, but we have come this far as a Commonwealth because people are committed to working for the best interest of our people. And in using you as an example of this, the community's active cooperation with the health directives and participation in using your mask in public is monumental in our containment of the COVID-19 spread. We worked together in the best interest of our Commonwealth.

Things can only happen if we choose to work together—for each other. Therefore, I am respectfully and very kindly asking for your support and vote for all candidates of the Republican Party. Should this global pandemic worsen, we can only anticipate hard times ahead. Let's vote to keep the Marianas strong through continued progress!

Yvette R. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

REPORT

From Page 8

have raised concerns about program glitches and customer service challenges affecting the delivery of federal unemployment assistance to constituents in need. As a member of the Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster-Related Funding, I have inquired into emergency contracts, illegal overtime, and double pay, and sought reports on the governor's reprogramming activities, the use of money borrowed from the Marianas Public Lands Trust, and the progress of pending FEMA-funded public projects that go as far back as Typhoon Soudelor. As a member of the Special Committee investigating the governor's expenditures, I have reviewed and questioned thousands of pages of documents dealing with first-class travel, reimbursements, official representation, personal security, utility costs at private residences, the Community Benefit Fund, and the governor's recent promotional trip to the Northern Islands.

Looking ahead, for the remainder of this term and into the next, I believe that the priorities of the Legislature should include submission of the special committee reports to the House and to the people, and completion of the government's fiscal response action plan along with the enactment of fiscal stabilization reforms. We should also begin the work of restructuring the medical referral program in coordination with the administration and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and collaborate with Medicaid to develop the affordable buy-in program for CNMI residents. We will need to identify greater resources to support PSS, NMC, and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, all of which are key partners in strengthening our local workforce and in rebuilding and revitalizing our economy. And we must ensure maximum transparency and accountability for the hundreds of millions of federal dollars expected to assist the Commonwealth in recovering from the impacts of typhoon disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

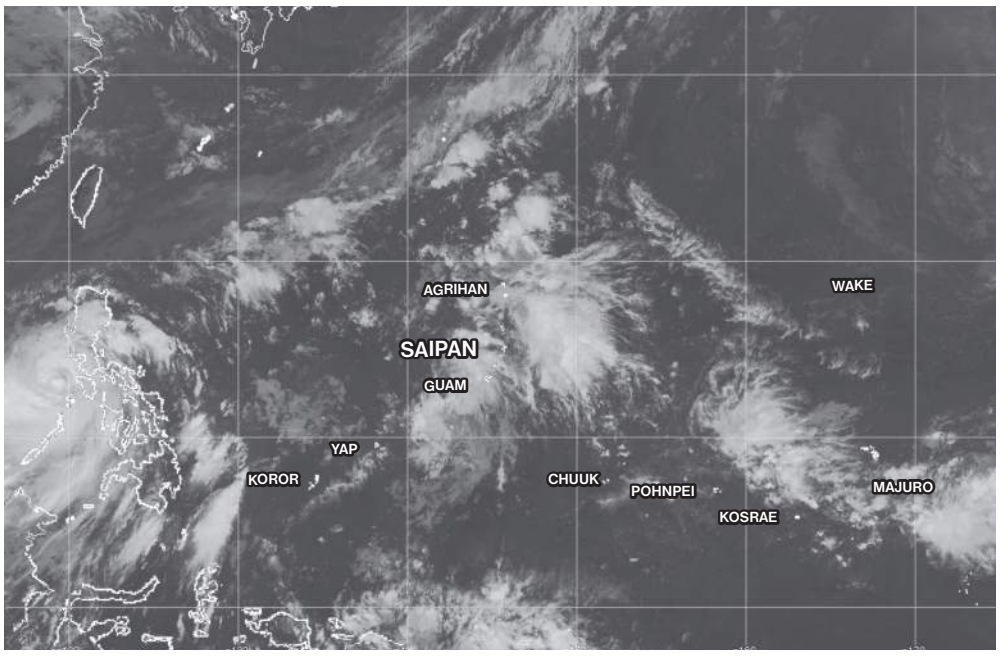
To be continued

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	88° 78°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Southeast winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. A circulation is located south of Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	2:33 AM	3:21 PM
Wednesday	-	3:21 AM	3:57 PM
Thursday	-	4:08 AM	4:32 PM
Friday	-	4:54 AM	5:07 PM
Saturday	-	5:40 AM	5:42 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	66° / 57°
Beijing	Cloudy	66° / 45°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	84° / 72°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 72°
London	Cloudy	63° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	97° / 66°
Manila	Showers	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	81° / 63°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 72°
New York	Showers	63° / 49°
Osaka	Sunny	73° / 61°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°
Busan	Sunny	72° / 59°
Rome	Sunny	73° / 48°
Salem	Sunny	71° / 45°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 46°
Tokyo	Sunny	70° / 55°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:35 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.36
11:00 AM	LOW TIDE	0.26
5:45 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
-	-	-

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4
UA117	7:50am	8:30am	6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:30am	9:10pm	1 via Guam

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1 via Guam
UA183	9:05pm	10:50pm	5 via Guam

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4
UA174	6:15am	6:56am	6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	11:45pm	6:56am+1	5 via Guam

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25pm	4:25am+1	1 via Guam
UA184	11:45pm	5:33am+1	5 via Guam

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

D' Chef's Kitchen:

Passion project

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Former Mariana Resort & Spa chef Rico Delos Reyes continues his passion for whipping up good food after opening D' Chef's Kitchen at Kada Dia in Susupe.

"We opened our food stall because we wanted to give our customers another place to get good food at affordable prices," said Delos Reyes in an interview with *Saipan Tribune.*

A graduate of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, Delos Reyes last Sept. 6 opened D' Chef's Kitchen, which is a snack bar that specializes in shawarmas, burgers, chicken burritos, fried chicken wings, siomai, shanghai, fish balls, tacos, onion rings, kikiam, and pasta dishes.

"I've been in the food industry for two decades already. I worked in the Middle East then came to Saipan and worked for Mariana Resort until it closed in 2018. I took up a culinary course at NMTI to develop my skills and get more knowledge of the culinary industry," said Delos Reyes, who is a native of Antipolo, Philippines.

MARK RABAGO
Chef Rico Delos Reyes has more than a decade of experience working in a hotel kitchen setting.

MARK RABAGO
Chef Rico Delos Reyes poses outside his passion project D' Chef's Kitchen at Kada Dia.

MARK RABAGO
D' Chef's Kitchen's shawarma is made using 13 different kinds of herbs, cooked in a slow-turning spit or shawarma machine, then topped with the snack bar's signature sauce.

As for the bestsellers, Delos Reyes said their shawarma appears to be the most popular. "Our shawarma is different from other shawarmas on island because we marinate our meat with 13 different kinds of herbs, cook it slowly in a slow-turning spit or shawarma machine, then top it with our signature sauce."

For more information, call 588-CHEF or 588-2433

Hasmin Tana, D' Chef's Kitchen communication officer, said Delos Reyes chose Kada Dia because of the location. She also said the idea of opening a snack bar at an "everyday market" is appealing because the setup is guaranteed to generate a lot of foot traffic, considering it's also next to the U.S. Post Office.

"Aside from us, there's also 11 more stalls selling different stuff, [ranging] from food [and] drinks, to accessories, etc.," she said.

Other bestsellers are its Chef's Burger and Aloha Burger, according to Tana. "D Chef's Kitchen is different because we use our own sauce for our specials. We also have a variety of affordable snacks they can order for takeout."

D' Chef's Kitchen is really Delos Reyes' passion project. "It's really Chef's Rico's idea. The kitchen is his comfort zone. He has more than a decade of experience working in a hotel kitchen setting. He wanted to share his passion and love for food to our friends and customers and having a place to do that is his dream come true…hence the name of our store," said Tana.

Rather than deter them from opening D' Chef's Kitchen, COVID-19 actually spurred them to open the snack bar as soon as possible, Tana said, since they know that affordable and quality food is what the public yearns for in a time of crisis.

"Our snack bar is just open for more than a month and since we started during the pandemic, we are working based on the 'new norm.' I can't really say how COVID-19 has affected us. …in a way, this pandemic actually inspired us to open the store," said Tana.

As far as following the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force's guidelines, D' Chef's Kitchen fastidiously adheres to the 3 W's—wear, wash, and wait. "We always wear masks and we remind our customers to put on their mask while ordering. …We always wash our hands and we make sure to sanitize our waiting area. We also provide sanitizer and alcohol to our customers. …We also have signs to remind our customer about social distancing while ordering and waiting for their orders," Tana said.

D' Chef's Kitchen is open from Monday to Saturday, 10am to 7pm. For more information, call 588-CHEF or 588-2433 or reach them through their Facebook page: D' Chef's Kitchen.

France says stop boycott calls; Erdogan ups Macron insults

PARIS (AP)—French authorities denounced Turkish "propaganda" against France that they said was aimed at fanning hate at home and abroad, and asked Sunday that calls to boycott French products cease immediately, saying such attacks were the work of a "radical minority."

Meanwhile, the president of Turkey took a second insulting swipe at French President Emmanuel Macron for condoning caricatures of the prophet of Islam in a growing, potentially high-risk dispute.

A day after saying that Macron needed his head examined, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday that the French leader has "lost his way."

In an unusual move, France announced Saturday it was recalling its ambassador for consultations.

In a chain of back-and-forth communications, quickly rising temperatures and French concern over the ramifications of its policies on free expression, Macron added one more, tweeting Sunday night, in English and Arabic, "We will not give in, ever." But he also affirmed, "We respect all difference in a spirit of peace."

Another presidential tweet said in bold print "We are ONE." In a recent count, the Arabic version had 28,000 comments - many of them insulting. They included pictures of Macron with a shoe stamped on his face.

The French Foreign Ministry said in a statement Sunday evening that its diplomats were mobilizing to ask countries where boycotts were being organized or hate calls issued not to back them, and to provide assurances that French citizens would be safe.

"In numerous countries of the Middle East, calls to boycott French products... and more generally, calls to demonstrate against France, in sometimes hateful terms, have been relayed on social media," the French Foreign Ministry said. It added that such calls "denature" France's positions on freedom of expression and conscience.

Meanwhile, Pakistan and a bloc of Muslim nations condemned, without using insults, remarks by Macron last week in which he refused to condemn the publication or showing of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

France considers religious satire to be among the kinds of speech that fall under the freedom of expression, while many Muslims consider any perceived attack on their prophet as a grave offense. An 18-year=old of Chechen origin beheaded near Paris on Oct. 16 a teacher who had shown caricatures of Muhammad in class.

Italy closes gyms, shuts eateries early to fight COVID-19

ROME (AP)—Italy's leader imposed at least a month of new restrictions across the country Sunday to fight rising coronavirus infections, shutting down gyms, pools and movie theaters, putting an early curfew on cafes and restaurants and mandating that people keep wearing masks outdoors.

Worried about crippling Italy's stagnant economy, especially after 10 weeks of a severe lockdown earlier in the pandemic, Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte opted against another heavy nationwide lockdown. The new decree goes into effect Monday and lasts until Nov. 24.

"Our aim is to protect health and the economy," Conte said.

A day earlier, Italy surpassed a half million confirmed coronavirus cases since February, when it became the first country in Europe stricken by the pandemic. On Sunday, Italy registered 21,273 new confirmed cases and 128 deaths since the day before. Italy has reported a total of 37,338 virus deaths, Europe's second-highest pandemic death toll after Britain.

Restaurant and bar owners had lobbied hard against the new measures, which orders them to close at 6 p.m. Most restaurants in Italy usually don't even start to serve dinner before 8 p.m. Cafes and restaurants were allowed in recent months to re-open for outdoor dining or limited indoor seating. But many are struggling to pay their bills and some have already failed after tourists were banned from the United States and many other countries.

Conte promised financial aid from his center-left government as soon as November to the food sector and noted that cafes and restaurants can do delivery and takeout orders until midnight. But before the curfew, no more than four diners will be allowed per restaurant table, unless they are from the same family.

Under the new rules, ski slopes are off-limits to all but competitive skiers and all spectators are banned from stadiums during professional sports matches, including soccer. Receptions after religious or civil ceremonies like weddings are forbidden. The decree continues to exempt children younger than six and those exercising outdoors from wearing masks.

"We all have to do small sacrifices," Conte said. "If we can't go to the gym, we can exercise outdoors."

Conte kept elementary and middle schools open but said 75% of high school students must have remote classes. Crowding on public transit, especially since schools reopened last month, has concerned health authorities.

Nation

Early vote total exceeds 2016; GOP chips at Dems' advantage

With nine days before Election Day, more people already have cast ballots in this year's presidential election than voted early or absentee in the 2016 race as the start of in-person early voting in big states led to a surge in turnout in recent days.

The opening of early voting locations in Florida, Texas and elsewhere has piled millions of new votes on top of the mail ballots arriving at election offices as voters try to avoid crowded places on Nov. 3 during the coronavirus pandemic.

The result is a total of 58.6 million ballots cast so far, more than the 58 million that The Associated Press logged as being cast through the mail or at in-person early voting sites in 2016.

Democrats have continued to dominate the initial balloting, but Republicans are narrowing the gap. GOP voters have begun to show up as early in-person voting, a sign that many heeded President Donald Trump's unfounded warnings about mail-voting fraud.

On Oct. 15, Democrats registrants cast 51% of all ballots reported, compared with 25% from Republicans. On Sunday, Democrats had a slightly smaller lead, 51% to 31%.

The early vote totals, reported by state and local election officials and tracked by the AP, are an imperfect indicator of which party may be leading. The data only shows party registration, not which candidate voters support. Most GOP voters are expected to vote on Election Day.

AP

Supporters of restoring Florida felons' voting rights march to an early voting precinct, Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Analysts said the still sizable Democratic turnout puts extra pressure on the Republican Party to push its voters out in the final week and, especially, on Nov. 3. That's especially clear in closely contested states such as Florida, Nevada and North Carolina.

"This is a glass half-full, glass half-empty situation," said John Couvillon, a Republican pollster who tracks early voting closely. "They're showing up more," he added, but "Republicans need to rapidly narrow that gap."

In Florida, for example, Democrats have outvoted Republicans by a 596,000 margin by mail, while Republicans only have a 230,000 edge in person. In Nevada, where Democrats usually dominate in-person early voting but the state decided to send a mail ballot to every voter this year, the GOP has a 42,600 voter edge in-person while Democrats have an 97,500 advantage in mail ballots.

"At some point, Republicans have to vote," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political scientist who tracks early voting on ElectProject.org. "You can't force everyone through a vote center on Election Day. Are you going to expect all those Republicans to stand in line for eight hours?"

Campaigns typically push their voters to cast ballots early so they can focus scarce resources chasing more marginal voters as the days tick down to Election Day. That usually saves them money on mailers and digital ads — something the cash-strapped Trump campaign would likely want — and minimizes the impact of late surprises that could change the race.

Trump's campaign has been pushing its voters to cast ballots early, but with limited success, delighting Democrats. "We see the Trump campaign, the RNC (Republican National Committee) and their state parties urging Trump's supporters to vote by mail while the president's Twitter account says it's a fraud," Tom Bonier, a Democratic data analyst, said on a recent call with reporters. "The Twitter account is going to win every time."

But Bonier warned that he does not expect a one-sided election. "There are signs of Republicans being engaged," he said. "We do expect them to come out in very high numbers on Election Day."

That split in voting behavior — Democrats voting early, Republicans on Election Day — has led some Democrats to worry about Trump declaring victory because early votes are counted last in Rust Belt battlegrounds. But they're counted swiftly in swing states such as Arizona, Florida and North Carolina, which may balance out which party seems ahead on election night.

Some of the record-setting turnout has led to long lines at early-vote locations and there have been occasional examples of voters receiving mail ballots that are incorrectly formatted. But on a whole, voting has gone relatively smoothly. With more than one-third of the 150 million ballots that experts predict will be cast in the election, there have been no armed confrontations at polling places or massive disenfranchisement that have worried election experts for months.

One sign of enthusiasm is the large number of new or infrequent voters who have already voted — 25% of the total cast, according to an AP analysis of data from the political data firm L2. Those voters are younger than a typical voter and less likely to be white. So far similar shares of them are registering Democratic and Republican.

Trump intensifies fracking assault on Biden in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)— In a late gambit to win the battleground state of Pennsylvania, President Donald Trump and his GOP allies have intensified attacks on Joe Biden over fracking, hoping to drive a wedge between the former vice president and the white, working-class voters tied to the state's booming natural gas industry.

That assault is playing out in a barrage of TV ads and conservative and right-wing websites, and is repeated at every Trump rally in the state.

It relies on a series of confusing statements from the former vice president—including remarks on the oil industry from last week's debate—to claim he intends to "ban" or end national gas extraction, although that is not the Democrat's official position.

Trump's fracking play comes as polls show the president is struggling to overtake Biden in Pennsylvania and in need of a boost from the rural and exurban white voters who helped him to a narrow victory in Pennsylvania in 2016.

It also shoots to snap the tightrope that Biden is walking between the Democratic Party's left wing, which is hostile to fossil fuels, and its bedrock blue-collar union base that is building an expanding network of gas pipelines, power plants and processing facilities in Pennsylvania.

Biden's climate change plan aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gases emissions by 2050, and does not involve banning fracking, the process formally named hydraulic fracturing that along with horizontal drilling made the United States an oil and gas superpower over the past decade.

He argues that net-zero threshold can be achieved by helping eliminate emissions from natural gas infrastructure, while redirecting federal subsidies for oil and gas to cleaner energies.

"I do rule out banning fracking because ... we need other industries to transition to get to ultimately a complete zero-emissions," Biden said in Thursday night's debate.

For his part, Trump often ridicules the science behind increasingly urgent warnings for immediate action to stave off the worst of climate damage by cutting fossil fuel emissions.

But Trump's attacks routinely cite various Biden statements—several made during the Democratic primary campaign—to muddy that position.

In one, Biden told a town hall questioner last year, "We're going to end fossil fuel." Biden's running mate, California Sen. Kamala Harris, meanwhile endorsed a ban during her own bid for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Zeta likely hurricane before hitting Yucatan, heading for US

MIAMI (AP)—A strengthening Tropical Storm Zeta is expected to become a hurricane Monday as it heads toward the eastern end of Mexico's resort-dotted Yucatan Peninsula and then likely move on for a possible landfall on the central U.S. Gulf Coast at midweek.

Zeta, which on Sunday became the earliest ever 27th named storm of the Atlantic season, was centered about 260 miles (420 kilometers) southeast of Cozumel island late Sunday, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. It had maximum sustained winds of 60 mph (95 kph).

Though nearly stationary, the storm was expected to begin advancing on a path that would take it over the Yucatan Peninsula late Monday. It would then head into the Gulf of Mexico and approach the U.S. Gulf Coast by Wednesday, though it could weaken by then, the hurricane center said.

Officials in Quintana Roo state, the location of Cancun and other resorts, said they were watching the storm. They reported nearly 60,000 tourists in the state as of midweek. The state government said 71 shelters were being readied for tourists or residents who might need them.

The government is still handing out aid, including sheet roofing, to Yucatan residents hit by Hurricane Delta and Tropical Storm Gamma earlier this month.

A hurricane warning was posted for the Yucatan Peninsula from Tulum to Rio Lagartos, including Cancun and Cozumel.

Zeta was dawdling because it was trapped between two strong high pressure systems to the east and west, and it could not move north or south because nothing was moving there either, said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami.

Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said that when a storm gets stuck, it can unload dangerous downpours over one place, causing flooding. That happened in 2017 over Houston with Harvey, when more than 60 inches (150 centimeters) of rain fell and in 2019 over the Bahamas with Category 5 Hurricane Dorian, which was the worst-case scenario of a stationary storm, he said.

The hurricane center said Zeta could bring 4 to 8 inches (10 to 20 centimeters) of rain to Mexico, Jamaica and parts of Cuba, before drenching the central U.S. Gulf Coast.

The storm could make landfall anywhere from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle, forecasters said.

Asia

Residents evacuate to safer grounds in Pola town on the island of Mindoro, central Philippines, Monday, Oct. 26, 2020. AP

Typhoon displaces thousands in PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A fast-moving typhoon forced thousands of villagers to flee to safety in provinces south of the Philippine capital Monday, flooding rural villages and ripping off roofs, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from Typhoon Molave, but authorities reported at least one person was missing and seven others were rescued after their yacht sank off Batangas province south of Manila.

The typhoon has sustained winds of 125 kilometers (77 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 180 kph (112 miles) per hour and was blowing westward at 25 kph (15 mph). Molave is expected to start blowing out of the country into the South China Sea on Monday, government forecasters said.

At least 25,000 villagers were displaced with about 20,000 taking shelter in schools and government buildings which were turned into evacuation centers, according to the Office of Civil Defense.

"Villagers are now asking to be rescued because of the sudden wind which blew away roofs," Humerlito Dolor, governor of Oriental Mindoro province, told DZMM radio.

Dolor said pounding rains overnight swamped farming villages in his province then fierce winds toppled trees and power posts early on Monday, knocking off power. Authorities were clearing roads of fallen trees and debris in some towns after the typhoon passed, he said.

More than 1,800 cargo truck drivers, workers and passengers were stranded in ports after the coast guard barred ships and ferry boats from venturing into rough seas.

About 20 typhoons and storms annually batter the Philippines, and the Southeast Asian archipelago is seismically active, with earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

Hundreds march in Taiwan to support 12 arrested Hong Kongers

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Hundreds of people marched in Taiwan's capital on Sunday to demand the release of 12 Hong Kong anti-government protesters who were arrested by mainland Chinese authorities in August.

The 12 were allegedly traveling illegally by boat to Taiwan when Chinese authorities detained them. They are now facing formal charges for illegal border crossings in Shenzhen, a southern Chinese city that borders Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, people demonstrated in at least a dozen cities across the world—from New York to Vancouver to Adelaide in Australia—in support of those who were arrested, in a campaign called #save12hkyouths. Prominent Hong Kong activists Joshua Wong and Nathan Law helped launch the campaign on social media.

In the crowd in Taipei on Sunday were activists from several Taiwanese organizations, as well as other residents of the self-ruled democratic island and many Hong Kongers. With many dressed in black and wearing face masks, they marched through the city, shouting "Glory to Hong Kong."

Taiwan and China split amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing has cut off ties with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's government over her refusal to accept its demand that she recognize the island as a part of China to be unified with the mainland eventually under the same "one country, two systems" policy enacted in Hong Kong.

Tsai's election last January to a second, four-year term came after the repression of last year's pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong solidified public opinion in Taiwan against moves toward accepting rule by Beijing.

Tsang Cheung-kui, who moved from Hong Kong to Taiwan in February, said it was important to him as a Hong Konger to demonstrate. "Those of us Hong Kongers in Taiwan want to come support them," he said. "It's very obvious, Hong Kong is no longer Hong Kong. But we haven't given up on Hong Kong."

Unlike in 2019, when Tsang took part in Hong Kong's anti-government protests to demand protections for the city's democratic freedoms, the message this time was different.

"A lot of us protesters, we have this mindset that we want the world to know Hong Kong is no longer the same," Tsang said. "Don't think that Hong Kong is like before where there was democracy, freedom and rule of law. Now this is completely nonexistent."

World

AS COVID FUELS HUNGER

UK doctors demand free meals for kids

LONDON (AP)—Pediatricians are urging the British government to reverse course and provide free meals for poor children during school holidays as the COVID-19 pandemic pushes more families into poverty.

Some 2,200 members of the Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health have written an open letter to Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson, saying they were shocked by his "refusal" to back down on the issue. The House of Commons last week rejected legislation that would have provided free meals during all school holidays from October through the Easter break.

The doctors say some 4 million children live in poverty, and a third rely on free school meals. Many parents in Britain have lost their jobs or are working reduced hours during the pandemic, making it imperative to make it possible for poor children over the holidays get at least one nutritious meal a day, the doctors argue.

"Families who were previously managing are now struggling to make ends meet because of the impact of COVID-19," the doctors wrote. "It is not good enough to send them into the holiday period hoping for the best, while knowing that many will simply go hungry."

Most schools in England begin a one-week holiday on Monday.

The doctors heaped praise on Marcus Rashford, a 22-year-old star soccer player for Manchester United who has used his celebrity to highlight the issue. Rashford's campaign helped pressure Johnson's government into providing free meals during a nationwide coronavirus lockdown earlier this year, and he has gathered more than 800,000 signatures on a petition to extend the program.

Rashford has spoken movingly about depending on free school lunches as a child and was recently honored by the queen for his dedication to the issue of child hunger.

Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis, who spoke for the government on Britain's Sunday morning news programs, claimed that lawmakers were taking a broader approach. He said the government has increased welfare benefits nationwide and has provided 63 million pounds ($82 million) to local communities to help people.

"What we are looking to do is ensure that we deal with child poverty at the core, putting the structure in place that means even in school holidays, children can get access to the food that they need," he told Sky News on Sunday.

The opposition Labour Party has warned it will bring the issue back to the House of Commons if ministers do not change course in time for Christmas.

Advocates for children have been shocked by the political stalemate. The Children's Commissioner for England, Anne Longfield, said she has been both horrified and disappointed by the debate.

"We're a wealthy country, it's 2020," she told Sky News. "To have a debate about whether we should make sure that hungry and vulnerable children have enough to eat is something that is strikingly similar to something we'd expect to see in chapters of 'Oliver Twist'—a novel published in the 19th century."

Poles protest abortion ban in churches and on streets

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Women's rights activists furious over a tightening of Poland's already restrictive abortion law staged protests outside and inside churches Sunday, disrupting Masses and finding themselves confronted with accusations of "barbaric" behavior.

With the coronavirus surging in Poland, large protests also erupted for a fourth straight night in cities large and small across the nation, including in Warsaw, Gdansk and Poznan, where police on horseback guarded a church.

In the southern city of Katowice, tensions were high as a large presence of riot police separated protesters and about 30 people with the All-Polish Youth, a far-right ultranationalist group. Police used tear gas and scuffled with the women's rights protesters after they began to push the police toward the anti-abortion group, the RMF FM broadcaster reported.

At the Holy Cross Church in Warsaw, a group of far-right nationalists blocked stairs leading to the entrance. When one woman managed to push her way through, the nationalists grabbed her and forced her down the stairs.

A video posted from the northern Polish city of Szczecinek showed young women surrounding a priest and yelling at him to "Go back to the church" and to "F—- off."

The actions on Sunday follow a ruling on Thursday by Poland's constitutional court that declared that aborting fetuses with congenital defects is unconstitutional. Poland already had one of Europe's most restrictive abortion laws, and the ruling will result in a near-complete ban on abortion.

TVN24, a private news station, broadcast images of farmers on tractors driving through the town of Nowy Dwor Gdanski in support of women's reproductive rights. A sign on one tractor said, "We want choice, not PiS terror." PiS is the Polish acronym for the country's conservative governing party, Law and Justice.

Scenes of angry young women entering churches and confronting priests with obscenities signals a dramatic historical change in Poland, where the Roman Catholic Church has been venerated for centuries as the highest authority and where such events would have been unthinkable not so long ago.

The Catholic Church earned respect during the communist era for supporting pro-democracy dissidents in their struggle for freedom, and the late Polish pope St. John Paul II is held up as a national hero.

But today, its authority is being challenged as it supports the country's right-wing government and struggles to manage a string of clerical abuse scandals.

Sunday's events marked a further escalation of a culture war in Poland as women's and LGBT rights activists have increasingly turned to more radical protest methods after feeling that years of lobbying for greater rights have not brought the desired results.

A young woman in one Warsaw church stood near the altar with a sign that said "Let's pray for the right to abortion."

Overdrive

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Certain names resonate, like Gaga, Kardashian, Hefner, Angelou, Bush and Clinton. Product names also resonate, such as Corolla, Camry, Avalon, 4Runner, Cressida and Celica.

If Venza, the name of the crossover produced by Toyota from 2008 through 2015, resonates at all, it's not for the reason you suppose. Toyota officially insists that the name derives from a mashup of the words "venture" and Monza." However, its name is almost identical to the Japanese word for toilet seat: benza. I've been told that Toyota's Japanese executives always found the name amusing, telling their stateside colleagues while snickering that Americans drive toilet seats. Yet we had the last laugh. The Venza was never the success company officials expected. So you have to wonder why Toyota is reviving that crappy old moniker for its first two-row crossover SUV sold solely with a gas-electric hybrid driveline and all-wheel drive, rather than using another old name.

No matter what you call it, the Venza, sold in ascending LE, XLE and Limited trim, is longer and slightly lower than the RAV4, and has a far more refined and sophisticated demeanor. Walking around it, the Venza's side sculpting is particularly well done, starting as a soft shoulder and sharpens into a crease the wraps around back where it anchors the rear window. At the same time, the side windows' teardrop shape comes to a point, accentuating the sloping rear pillar that offsets the vehicle's square shape. It's a masterful bit of shaping that's clearly softer and far superior to the previous Venza, which is best described as dowdy. Certainly, it's more inviting than the RAV4, which wears aggressively chiseled sheetmetal that's meant to lure off-roaders, and those with Y-chromosomes.

The RAV4 comparisons are apt, since the Venza employs the RAV4 Hybrid's powertrain: a 2.5-liter double-overhead-cam four-cylinder engine paired with three electric motors to produce 219 horsepower. However, the Venza uses a lithium-ion battery pack rather than the RAV4's nickel-metal hydride battery pack to improve performance. And while the Venza also has selectable normal, eco and sport driving modes, it lacks the RAV4's off-road modes. This is more the foul-weather friend than backwoods warrior.

Then again, given that the Limited-trim test vehicle tipped the scales at more than 3,900 pounds, 219 horses seems meager. Yet the driveline's electric motors boost low-speed torque, making low-speed acceleration seem sprightly, more so than a sprint to 60 mph. Clearly, the Venza is an ideal around-town, cul-de-sac cruiser.

It's a feeling amplified by its quiet, comfortable and fuss-free ride and handling. Bumps and rough stuff are absorbed and dispatched quickly, with little excess body rebound. There is body lean in corners, and the low rolling resistance tires howl in protest at anything beyond modest cornering. Brakes are light in feel, and take time to engage, but the energy they generate is captured to recharge the battery.

The Venza's all-wheel drive system operates in front-wheel drive until slip is detected. Then, up to 80 percent of its power can be channeled to the rear wheels if needed. Toyota's Star Safety System is standard and includes vehicle stability control, traction control, electronic brake-force distribution, brake assist, anti-lock braking system and automatic stop/start.

The RAV4's driving position is comfortable and roomy. An unusually large full-color head-up display, optional on the Limited, projects speed and other information onto the windshield in front of the driver. The cabin feels sufficiently roomy; passengers should have more than enough space. Certainly their stuff will. The cargo area goes well forward and is nicely finished, even though it lacks grocery bag hooks. However, it's shallow in height and has a high liftover. The cabin remains somewhat quiet, although there is a noticeable amount of road and tire noise at highway speed.

But the interior is a clear step above the RAV4, with a premium bearing and a cabin awash in soft-touch pleather and shiny plastic finishes. An 8-inch infotainment screen is standard, although a larger 12.3-inch unit is optional on the XLE and standard on the Limited. It also houses the climate control's flat capacitive buttons that prove hard to use without taking your eyes off the road. But the system is easy to understand thanks to the large screen size. I just wish its interface wasn't so extraordinarily overdesigned. There are four USB ports, and a Qi wireless charging pad. Amazon Alexa, Android Auto, and Apple CarPlay compatibility is standard. The test vehicle came with the JBL sound system, which proved to be especially impressive in its sound, lending songs a three-dimensional feel.

The truly unique feature, one which proves to be a delightful frill, is the optional Star Gaze fixed glass roof. At the touch of a button, it switches to transparent from opaque, a feature first seen on Mercedes-Benz models. Neat stuff.

But it's important to remember that the Venza isn't meant to be sporty. It's not an off-road warrior. It's not a specialist. It's a pleasing, well-rounded mainstream SUV with abilities you'll appreciate every day, like all-wheel drive, an EPA rating of 40 mpg in city driving, and enough cargo space to carry most of life's stuff.

And it's so good looking.

In other words, despite its crappy name, this is one vehicle that surely isn't. It's quiet, easy on the eyes, easy on the wallet, easy to drive, easy to live with, and easy to love. So much so, it deserves a better name than Venza.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Toyota Venza

- Base price: $32,470-$39,800
- Engine: 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine
- Motor: Permanent magnet synchronous
- Horsepower: 219
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 40/37 mpg
- Fuel required: Regular
- Length/Width/Height: 186.6/73/65.9 inches
- Ground clearance: 7.8 inches
- Cargo capacity: 28.7-55.1 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: Not rated
- Curb weight: 3,913 pounds

AUTO REVIEW: Despite its name, the 2021 Toyota Venza *is easy to love*

TNS
The 2021 Toyota Venza.

Life & Style

Celebrities unite to various get-out-the-vote efforts

This combination photo shows Justin Bieber, from left, Dua Lipa and Demi Lovato who will take part in various planned events urging Americans to vote. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—In the final days before the U.S. election, celebrities from Kerry Washington to Billie Jean King and Danai Gurira are urging Americans to vote. Here are some of the free, nonpartisan efforts:

■ Stars like Demi Lovato, Justin Bieber, Amy Schumer, Chelsea Handler, Mark Ruffalo, Dua Lipa, Vic Mensa, Uzo Aduba, Mandy Moore, Russell Westbrook, Jack Black and Common are backing a virtual rally on Saturday called "Vote With Us." The three-hour event will stream at 3 p.m. ET/Noon PT on www.votewith.us and simulcast across YouTube. "March For Our Lives" activists Emma González and David Hogg will also attend.

■ The hourlong "Every Vote Counts: A Celebration of Democracy" will be hosted by Alicia Keys, America Ferrera and Kerry Washington. There will be appearances by Amy Schumer, Chris Rock, Cobie Smulders, Coldplay, Condoleezza Rice, Eva Longoria, Jennifer Lopez, John Kasich, Kelly Clarkson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Natalie Portman, Shaquille O'Neal, Tan France, Wilmer Valderrama, and performances by Keys, Dan + Shay, Offset and Shawn Mendes. It's on CBS and CBS All Access on Oct. 29 at 9 p.m.-10 p.m. ET/PT.

■ The theater world has it's own push with "Act Out: Vote 2020," a night of music and short monologues. It's being led by playwright and "The Walking Dead" star Danai Gurira, Tony Award-winning director Stephen Daldry and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner playwright Lynn Nottage. There will be performances by Yvette Nicole Brown, Ryan J. Haddad, Brian Tyree Henry, Lloyd Knight, Sandra Oh and Ephraim Skyes. The event will be available to stream for free on Oct. 29 at 9 p.m. ET and then live on YouTube until Nov. 2.

■ The NFL's voting campaign includes Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll and quarterback Russell Wilson, San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle and Atlanta Falcons running back Todd Gurley. There's also an "Latinos Vote" extension campaign with NFL legends and celebrities encouraging the Latino community to vote that includes Victor Cuz, Roberto Garza and Wilmer Valderrama.

■ Theater producer Dale Mott and composer Nolan Williams Jr. have tapped their contacts to create a rousing musical video to encourage voter participation. "I Have A Right To Vote" video features "Hamilton" original cast member Christopher Jackson, tennis great Billie Jean King, entertainer Billy Porter, chef Carla Hall and others reciting the words of voting rights icons including John Lewis, Frederick Douglass and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Berklee appoints first woman to lead music college

The Berklee College of Music has chosen Erica Muhl to serve as the school's next president, making her the first woman to lead the institution in its 75-year history, officials at the Boston school announced this week.

Muhl, a composer and conductor, previously led music and arts schools at the University of Southern California, where she spent 30 years. She begins at Berklee in July, replacing Roger Brown, who is stepping down after 17 years as president.

Muhl in a statement gave thanks to Brown and Berklee's trustees, saying "the institution you have all built has no equal."

Trustee Marty Mannion, who led the presidential search, said Muhl's "experience as a strong, seasoned leader who has innovated and managed in times of change uniquely places her to lead Berklee into a new era."

At USC, Muhl served as dean of the university's art and design school and as associate dean of its music school. In 2013, she became founding director of a USC school that combines art, technology and business.

Her musical works have been commissioned and performed by groups including Minnesota Opera and the New World Symphony, according to Berklee.

Muhl will be the fourth president of Berklee, which enrolls about 7,000 students. ***(AP)***

Atlanta rapper Silento charged with driving 143 mph on I-85

ATLANTA (AP)—Atlanta rapper Silento was arrested Friday and accused of driving 143 mph (230 kph) on Interstate 85, authorities said.

Silento, or Richard "Ricky" Lamar Hawk, was charged with reckless driving, speeding, failure to maintain lane and improper stopping, news outlets reported.

A DeKalb police report said Hawk was pulled over around 3 a.m. after an officer witnessed Hawk's white BMW swerving around slower cars.

Silento

The report said Hawk initially argued with the officer about how fast he was going and insisted that he'd done nothing wrong.

Later, Hawk told the officer he was speeding because he normally gets followed when leaving events, the report said.

The "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" rapper said he was at a club promoting his new song and that he could go 143 mph because he's not "a regular person," the report said.

It was unclear whether Hawk had an attorney who would comment on his behalf.

The arrest comes a month after Hawk was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. Hawk was accused of walking into an unlocked stranger's home in the Valley Village area of Los Angeles and swinging a hatchet at the two people inside before one of them disarmed him.

Wife with debilitating illness gets little help from husband

DEAR ABBY: I am a young woman who has battled rheumatoid arthritis and Sjogren's syndrome for the past eight years. My aunt passed away from complications of it at the age of 43, and I'm getting close to that age.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, I have become increasingly disabled. I can barely get out of bed without being in pain and cannot sleep. Household chores have become impossible, and I can get things done only near the end of the day when the swelling in my joints goes down.

I saw how this disease robbed my aunt of her livelihood, but I also saw how my uncle helped her with almost everything. I love my husband, but he seems to think that I can just take a pill and instantly and magically be fine, which is not true. He has unrealistic expectations of me that I cannot meet.

I have tried to get him to understand this is a chronic disease that will be with me for the rest of my life, and I have given him material to read, but he dismisses it. At this point, I feel like packing up and leaving because I'm a burden to him and I don't know what else to do anymore. Advice?

FULL OF PAIN

DEAR FULL OF PAIN: Packing up and leaving right now is not advisable. When couples promise each other they will stick together "in sickness and in health," situations like the one in which you find yourself is what's meant.

Does your doctor know the degree to which your health has declined in the last several months? If not, put the person on notice! Schedule a consultation, if possible, and when you do, your husband should be with you so he can fully understand what's going on and help you if you need it. If he isn't capable of doing that, you will have to make other arrangements for your care and for the housework you can no longer manage.

Please stop beating yourself up over this. You have done nothing wrong. Your husband could just as easily be the unwell spouse, if fate hadn't decided otherwise.

DEAR ABBY: My friend just ended a relationship with her boyfriend of over two years that had progressed to them moving in together. About eight months ago, she found out he was having an online relationship, but they talked it out and decided to give it another try. Now, after learning he has another woman on the line, she kicked him out.

Abby, he is working to get her back, and she seems to want to give him another chance. I think it's a losing game for her and more disappointment down the line. My question is, how honest should I be about my unwillingness to go along with giving him a third chance? It seems like this leopard won't change his spots.

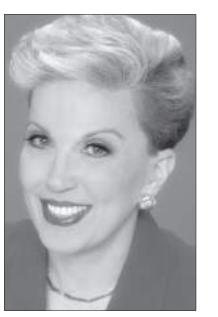
CRYSTAL BALL IN MISSOURI

DEAR CRYSTAL BALL: If you haven't already expressed your feelings to your friend, AND SHE ASKS YOU FOR YOUR OPINION, be fully honest regarding your concerns about her ex-boyfriend's character. I agree that having cheated on her not once but twice, the likelihood of him doing it again is almost guaranteed. That said, you can't live your friend's life for her, and some people are slow to learn.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

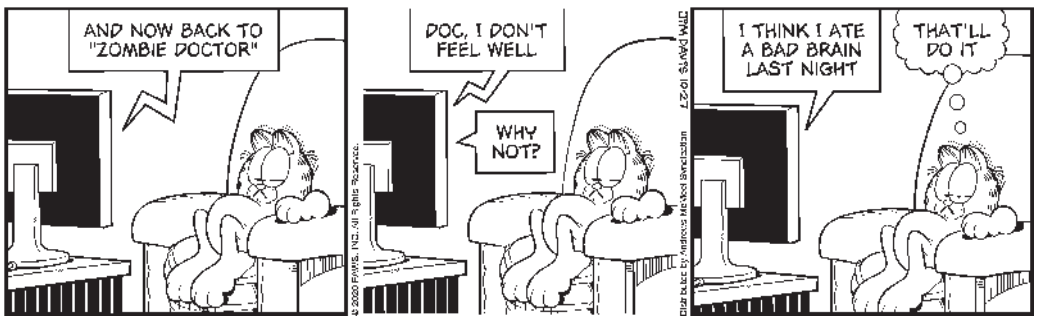
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

OPEN WIDE... OPEN WIDE... ...THAT'S GOOD...
NOW THIS MIGHT CAUSE SOME SLIGHT DISCOMFORT... ...HOLD REAL STILL...
RRGGHH! MMF! RRG! STOP THRASHING!... I'VE ALMOST GOT IT... ALMOST... MMF! THERE!
BOY, IT'S A GOOD THING YOU HAD THIS REMOVED! JUST LOOK AT ALL THESE BAD SPOTS!
LUNCH SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS.

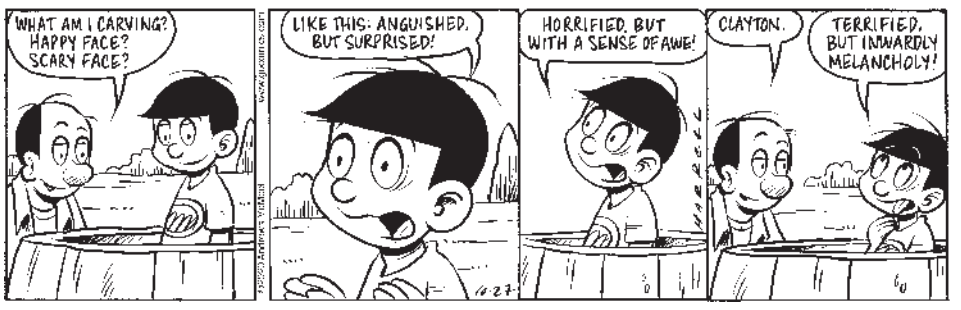
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



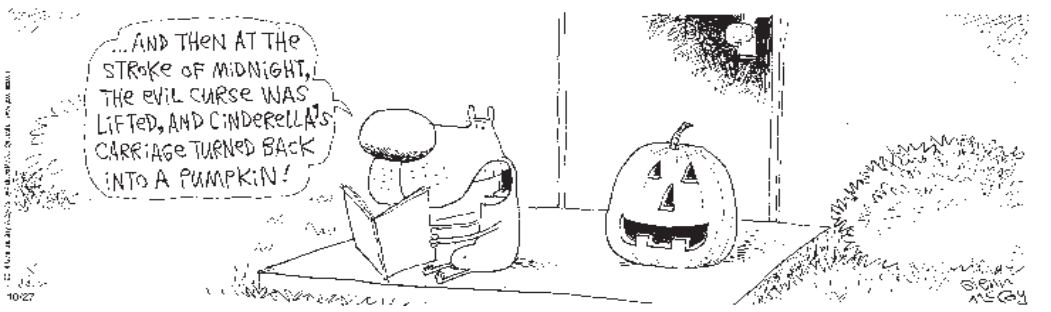
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT AM I CARVING? HAPPY FACE? SCARY FACE?
LIKE THIS: ANGUISHED, BUT SURPRISED!
HORRIFIED, BUT WITH A SENSE OF AWE!
CLAYTON.
TERRIFIED, BUT INWARDLY MELANCHOLY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

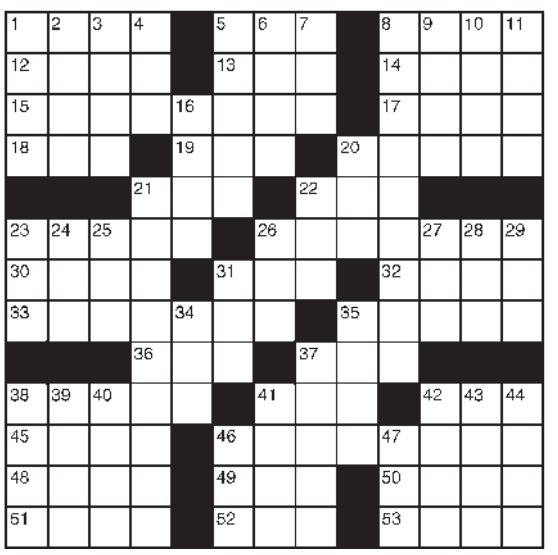
ACROSS
1 Rhyming tributes
5 Indent key
8 Sugar or starch, for short
12 Golf stroke
13 SHO rival
14 Killer whale
15 Carpenter's accessory
17 — incline (tilted)
18 Nine-digit ID
19 Metal source
20 Shiny lip application
21 Nemesis
22 Watch chain
23 Engine
26 Modifying words
30 Nile queen, familiarly
31 Mess up
32 Start of a spell
33 String quartet player
35 Labor group
36 Burst
37 "— Miniver"
38 Rebuff
41 Feathery wrap
42 Museum-funding org.
45 Forbidden act
46 "The Color of Money" setting
48 Car
49 Physique
50 Milky gem
51 Campus VIP
52 Covert agent
53 Actress Tyne

DOWN
1 Makes a choice
2 Pairs
3 Thames town
4 Cardinal cap letters
5 "Ta-da!"
6 Competent
7 Droid
8 "Awesome!"
9 Florence's river
10 Some HDTVs
11 Proscribes
16 Rude dude
20 State VIP
21 Unfailing
22 New Deal pres.
23 Cato's 1200
24 Flamenco cheer
25 Business card no.
26 Curator's concern
27 Slugger's stat
28 Street address?
29 — Juan
31 Mentalist's gift
34 Charged bit
35 Caspian Sea feeder
37 Prone to pouting
38 Lose it
39 Serve tea
40 Golden Rule word
41 Animated Betty
42 Wine valley
43 Israeli airline
44 Friend
46 "Nova" airer
47 Brick carrier

Solution time: 22 mins.

S	A	T			B	R	R		F	U	S	E
W	R	A	P		E	A	U		I	K	E	A
A	G	R	A		A	M	B		N	E	W	T
B	O	O	T	S		P	I	N	G			
			R	I	G		N	C	C	D	L	C
B	U	C	O	L	I	C		D	R	C	A	M
A	N	O	N		G	O	C		P	C	R	U
B	I	T	S	Y		D	E	M	A	N	D	S
S	T	E	A	D	S		R	O	I			
			I	S	P	S		E	N	J	O	Y
J	O	A	N		A	H	A		T	A	D	A
E	D	I	T		M	O	P		S	K	I	N
T	E	D	S		S	E	T		E	E	K	

Yesterday's answer 10-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Samantha Logan, 24; Kelly Osbourne, 36; Peter Firth, 67; John Cleese, 81.

Happy Birthday: Let your imagination lead the way. You'll crave change and jump at the chance to learn something new. Set your sights on a new adventure that will encourage personal growth, enlightenment, the desire to eliminate what is no longer working for you and the urge to pursue what makes you feel passionate. Love, peace and happiness are within reach. Your numbers are 4, 16, 20, 26, 30, 37, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep secrets to yourself. Share what's necessary, and gather the information that will help you maintain your position, reputation and status. Take proper care of your health, and stick to a budget. Patience will pay off. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You'll gravitate toward trendy options and set the pace for those who look up to you. Your input will hold weight and position you for advancement. Turn an idea into something spectacular and lucrative. Self-improvement is favored and will boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Think twice before you act on a random comment someone makes. If you let your emotions rule your head, someone will mislead you. Look inward, assess your situation and choose to focus on fitness, health and personal gain. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put your creativity into play at your place of employment, when working on your resume or at an interview. Separating yourself from the competition will help you stand out. Personal gain is apparent. Celebrate with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be careful what you wish for. If you meddle or get involved in gossip, it will lead to setbacks. Pour your energy into doing your own thing. Strive for perfection and personal gain, not helping someone else get ahead. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* People and situations that you can relate to will gravitate toward you. Share your thoughts and beliefs, and you will build a solid base for projects. Opportunity and hard work will result in positive change. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Refuse to let anyone dominate you or stand in your way. Channel your energy into what's important to you and into meaningful relationships. Don't make a move or buy into something because of peer pressure. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Your intelligence will play a role in bringing about change, and good fortune will follow if you are proactive in turning your thoughts into reality. Demonstrate how you want things to unfold, and you'll set a high standard. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Keep your guard up when working in conjunction with others. Someone will be underhanded in a situation that can affect your position. Be private regarding your beliefs, ideas and intentions. Stick close to home, and you'll avoid interference. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A unique project will interest you. Consider the changes you will have to make to accommodate what you want to pursue. The result will be satisfying and bring you good fortune. Share your plans with someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stop listening and start doing. Refuse to let someone lead you in the wrong direction. Consider what you want and follow your heart. It's up to you to protect your freedom to pursue your dream. Let go of the past. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll motivate and inspire others to do what's right and best for everyone. Put your leadership qualities to work and make a difference. Your courage and kindness will help you gain respect. Romance is featured, and a lifestyle change looks promising. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, kind and knowledgeable. You are motivated and curious.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	1		5	2		
		3				9		
6	8						3	7
8			3		1			5
1			4		7			2
4	5						9	6
		1				8		
		9	8		6	5		

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	2	9	8	3	1	5	4	7
8	1	7	4	5	2	6	9	3
3	5	4	7	9	6	8	1	2
4	6	2	5	1	9	3	7	8
1	8	3	2	6	7	4	5	9
7	9	5	3	8	4	2	6	1
9	3	6	1	4	8	7	2	5
5	7	1	6	2	3	9	8	4
2	4	8	9	7	5	1	3	6

Difficulty Level ★ 10/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LEARNING ABOUT VANILLA — Solution: 7 letters

M	H	F	L	O	R	I	D	A	P	E	S	T	S	C
E	A	A	B	A	R	S	D	O	S	N	E	P	I	R
X	W	D	R	E	E	N	W	X	B	N	R	T	C	Y
I	A	S	A	V	A	D	W	E	I	O	E	A	E	S
C	I	U	T	G	E	N	E	V	T	M	H	H	C	T
A	I	G	U	R	A	S	S	U	S	U	T	I	R	A
N	L	A	R	I	V	S	T	O	R	L	N	T	E	L
N	D	R	A	T	S	U	C	I	L	C	A	I	A	L
C	O	S	T	A	R	I	C	A	N	H	D	A	M	I
U	G	B	L	I	O	S	G	T	R	G	I	N	R	Z
L	N	A	R	P	D	N	M	E	A	D	H	A	O	E
T	I	K	C	U	U	L	A	E	R	E	C	I	V	C
U	R	E	B	F	O	O	D	W	T	E	R	D	A	I
R	Ⓟ	Ⓞ	Ⓓ	Ⓢ	T	B	S	S	M	S	O	N	L	P
E	S	E	C	N	A	H	N	E	D	L	E	I	F	S

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Anther, Bake, Bars, Beans, Bees, Bourbon, Buds, Cosmetic, Costa Rica, Crystallize, Culture, Custard, Enhances, Field, Flavor, Florida, Food, Fungal, Harvesting, Hawaii, Ice Cream, Indian, Madagascar, Mexican, Mulch, Orchid, Pests, Pods, Powder, Raceme, Real, Ripens, Seed, Soil, Soup, Spice, Spring, Stems, Sugar, Sweet, Tahitian, Tutor, Uganda, Vine, Viral, West

Yesterday's Answer: Da Five Bloods

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 60 order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Kershaw stops steal of home; Dodgers near title

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Manuel Margot is tagged out at home by Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Austin Barnes after receiving a throw from pitcher Clayton Kershaw during the fourth inning in Game 5 of the World Series Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, in Arlington, Texas.

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—As much as Clayton Kershaw has dominated hitters throughout a glittering career, he has not silenced those who cite his lack of baseball's ultimate accomplishment.

With a gritty performance, plus one particular delivery home that will long be remembered, he hushed the skeptics and moved the Los Angeles Dodgers within a victory of their first World Series title since 1988.

"He's a phenomenal pitcher on the biggest stage," reliever Blake Treinen said after Kershaw beat the Tampa Bay Rays for the second time in six days, a 4-2 win Sunday night that gave the Dodgers a 3-2 Series lead. "I think a lot of credit goes to what he's been able to do in this World Series for us."

Kershaw even prevented the Rays from stealing the tying run.

Los Angeles was clinging to a one-run lead with runners at the corners and two outs in the fourth inning, and Kevin Kiermaier at the plate.

The great left-hander had raised both hands over his head in his instantly recognizable stretch position when he heard first baseman Max Muncy scream: "Step off! Step off! Step off!"

"Instinctually, I kind of did it," Kershaw recalled.

He coolly and quickly backed off the rubber and calmly threw to catcher Austin Barnes, who grabbed the ball and got his mitt down on Manuel Margot's outstretched hand while the runner's helmet tumbled off and cut his own lip.

Tampa Bay rarely threatened again.

Kershaw's formidable resume has lacked two of the most satisfying achievements: a win deep in the World Series and a championship ring. He has one and lifted himself and his team to the verge of the second.

Mookie Betts and Corey Seager sparked a two-run first inning, and Joc Pederson and Muncy homered off long-ball prone Tyler Glasnow, whose 100 mph heat got burned.

His scraggly dark brown hair dangling with sweat, Kershaw was cruising when Dodgers manager Dave Roberts removed the 32-year-old in favor of right-handed reliever Dustin May after getting two outs on two pitches in the sixth inning.

The mostly pro-Dodgers fans in the pandemic-reduced crowd of 11,437 booed when Roberts walked to the mound, well aware of what happened with the bullpen the previous night, when closer Kenley Jansen wasted a ninth-inning lead in a stunning 8-7 loss.

No matter that some LA players tried to convince Roberts to leave in Kershaw, he was gone.

"Fans, players get caught up in emotion, and I'm emotional, but I still have to have clarity on making decisions," Roberts said. "I can't get caught up in fans' reactions."

Those boos quickly turned to cheers as the Los Angeles rooters saluted Kershaw, a three-time NL Cy Young Award winner, as he walked to the dugout. Kershaw improved to 13-12 in postseason play, including 4-1 this year.

May, Victor Gonzalez and Treinen combined for two-hit scoreless relief. May got five outs, and Gonzalez stranded a pair of runners in the eighth by retiring Randy Arozarena and Brandon Lowe on flyouts.

"It's way more stressful watching than pitching," Kershaw said.

He has been joined in the postseason bubble environment by wife Ellen, 5-year-old daughter Cali, nearly 4 Charley and 9-month-old Cooper, making this October run most memorable.

"Any dad just wants their kids to be proud of them," Kershaw said. "Cali told me she was tonight, so I'll take that for sure."

The Kershaws make their offseason home in the Dallas area.

"Last minute we were able to get a few extra nosebleed seats, my wife said, so we got to bring an extra 10 or so people here," Kershaw said. "Don't want to say it's working out the way that I wanted it to just because being at Dodger Stadium would be awesome, too, but to get that family and friends here, to get to have as packed house as it can be and basically it seems like it's all Dodger fans, is very special."

Treinen got three straight outs after Margot's single leading off the ninth, becoming the fourth Dodgers pitcher with a postseason save.

"Kersh, a lot of credit goes to him for what we've been able to do in this World Series," Treinen said. "There's a tough narrative on him. He's a phenomenal pitcher on the biggest stage."

Thirty of the previous 46 teams to win Game 5 for a 3-2 lead have won the title, but just six of the last 14. Teams that wasted 3-2 leads include last year's Houston Astros.

Tony Gonsolin will start for the Dodgers on Tuesday, when Game 2 winner Blake Snell pitches for Tampa Bay.

This is the first time since 1997 that teams have alternated wins in the first five games.

With a 175-76 regular-season record, five ERA titles and an MVP, Kershaw ranks alongside Dodgers greats Sandy Koufax, Fernando Valenzuela and Orel Hershiser. He won World Series openers in 2017 and again this year, but he faltered in Game 5 in both 2017 and 2018 and has never won a title.

Kershaw shut down the Rays on two runs and five hits with six strikeouts and two walks. He is 2-0 with a 2.31 ERA in 15 2/3 innings over two starts in this Series with 14 strikeouts and three walks. Kershaw also set a career postseason record with 207 strikeouts, two more than Justin Verlander's previous mark.

Provided a 3-0 lead, Kershaw allowed Tampa Bay to pull within a run in the third when Kiermaier singled, Yandy Díaz tripled on a ball down the right-field line that skipped past Betts and Arozarena's single. The 25-year-old Cuban rookie asked for the ball after his record 27th postseason hit, one more than San Francisco's Pablo Sandoval in 2014.

"I didn't have my stuff like I did in Game 1," Kershaw said. "My slider wasn't there as good as it was, so fortunate to get through there."

NBA salary cap down to between $3M and $12M

NEW YORK—We know that the NBA fell short of revenue projections for last season by $1.5 billion. We know that the compressed 72-game season proposed to start in December will not have fans in all the buildings for all of it, leading to another down revenue season.

Where does that leave the salary cap? Nobody has an answer. While there is a sense the cap will remain flat with last season at around $109 million, nothing is certain. Teams are running a wide range of scenarios, something Connor Letourneau of the San Francisco Chronicle wrote about.

League sources have put the decline in the cap at anywhere between $3 million and $12 million. If the cap dropped $10 million, the Warriors could have to pay $15 million more in taxes than on an entire roster expected to be in the $180 million range.

We can assume that drop is off the pre-COVID-19 salary cap projections of around $115 million (the target teams had been planning for), which means a range of $100 million to $112 million. That's a huge difference. The salary cap is also what the luxury tax line (and the salary floor) is based on.

The Warriors expected to be paying the luxury tax next season—although no revenue coming in Chase Center makes that sting a little more for ownership—but for other teams where the cap lands could be the difference between being in the tax and out of it. Expect to see a few teams make some cash-saving trades or other moves to get them below the tax line if they are just over it.

There should be a good idea of the salary cap number in the coming weeks before the Nov. 18 2020 NBA Draft. It would be impossible for teams to make trades on draft night without direction on the salary cap number. Whatever that number will be, it will have a few teams scrambling.

Jeremy Lin to Warriors?

The Warriors are in need of a backup point guard to initiate the offense when Steph Curry is on the bench, and they reportedly have their eye on an old friend.

According to a report from Weixin, the Warriors have a "clear interest" in signing free-agent point guard Jeremy Lin.

Lin started his NBA career with the Warriors, seeing action for them during the 2010-11 season.

Lin hasn't played in the NBA since the 2018-19 season when he was a member of the Toronto Raptors who defeated the Warriors in the 2019 NBA Finals. Lin, however, didn't see much action in the playoffs, playing just 27 minutes in a total of eight playoff games. He averaged 7.0 points and 2.2 assists in 23 regular-season games for the Raptors.

Last season, Lin played for the Beijing Ducks of the CBA. The veteran point guards found success with the Ducks, averaging 22.3 points, 5.7 assists and 5.6 rebounds.

The Warriors have been searching for a reliable backup ball-handler ever since Andre Iguodala and Shaun Livingston left last offseason, As the roster currently is constructed, Jordan Poole is the Warriors' best option at backup guard.

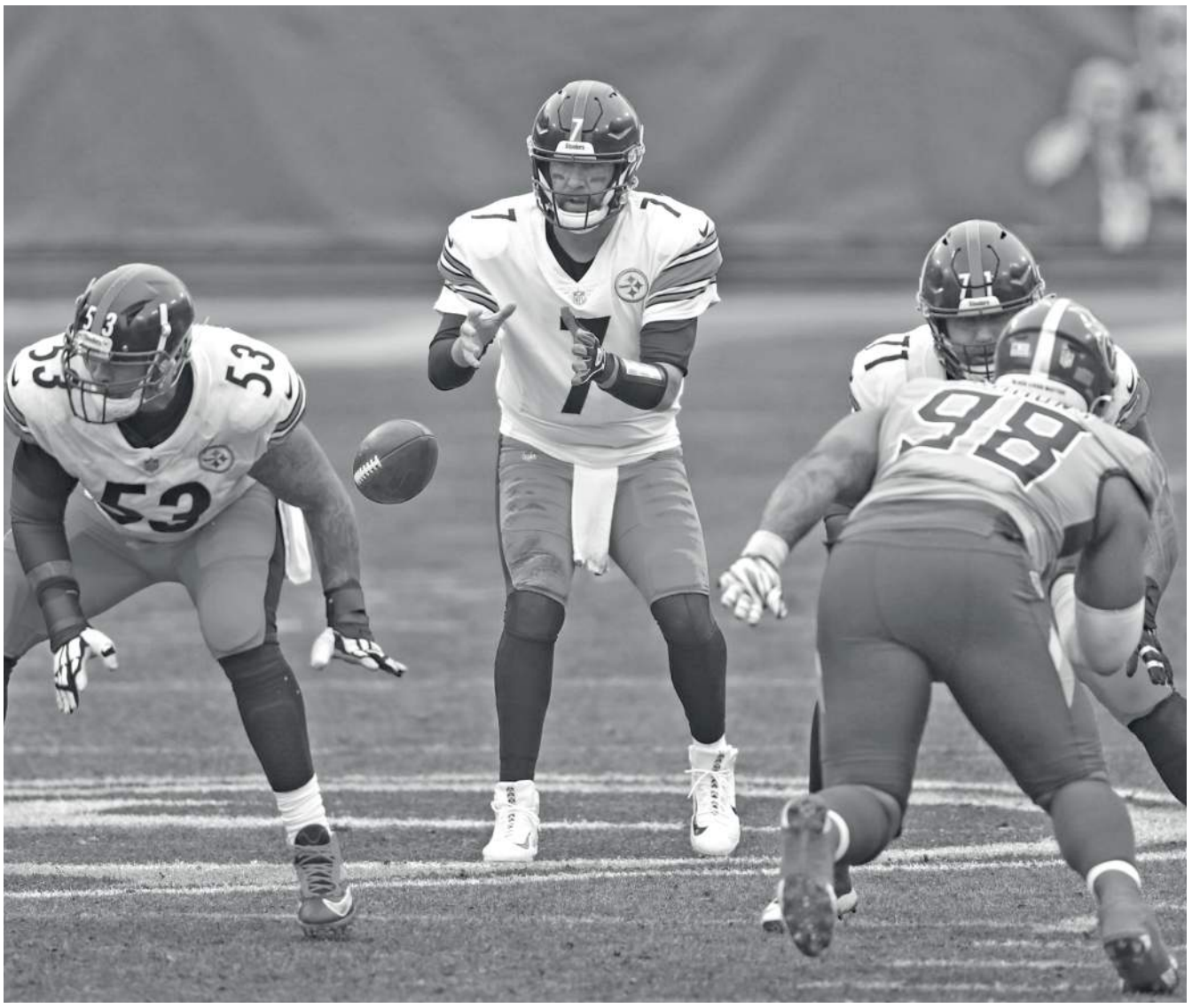
Big Ben, Steelers top Titans to remain perfect

NASHVILLE (AP)—Ben Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to Diontae Johnson, and the Pittsburgh Steelers remained perfect by holding off Tennessee for a 27-24 victory Sunday in a game originally postponed when the Titans came down with the NFL's first COVID-19 outbreak of the season.

In a matchup of the AFC's two remaining undefeated teams, the Titans rallied from 17 down. They failed to complete the comeback when Stephen Gostkowski, who made a 51-yarder earlier, missed from 45 yards wide right with 14 seconds left that sent the Steelers running around the field in celebration and the Titans (5-1) stunned.

The Steelers improved to 6-0 for their best start since 1978, when Pittsburgh won its first seven on the way to the Super Bowl. This was just the fifth time undefeated teams had met in Week 7 or later, and the winner of the previous four all made the Super Bowl.

Benny Snell Jr. added a 1-yard TD run, and Ray-Ray McCloud set up a touchdown with a 57-yard punt return. Pittsburgh scored at least 26 points for a sixth straight game to tie a stretch in 2015 for the longest in franchise history.



AP

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (7) takes a snap against the Tennessee Titans in the second half of an NFL game Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, in Nashville, Tenn.

Cardinals 37, Seahawks 34 OT

Zane Gonzalez made a 48-yard field goal with 20 seconds left in overtime to give Arizona a victory over Seattle in a thriller that featured 1,091 total yards, huge plays, crucial mistakes and—finally—a winner.

Seattle led all of regulation until Gonzalez made a 44-yard field goal as time expired to tie it at 34.

And that's when the crazy really got started.

The Cardinals stopped the Seahawks opening drive in overtime and then quickly moved downfield. On second-and-15, Arizona coach Kliff Kingsbury elected to go ahead and try for the field goal. Gonzalez made the 41-yarder, but Kingsbury called a timeout just before the snap because the play clock was winding down. Gonzalez missed wide left on the next attempt.

Moments later, it appeared Seattle had won on the ensuing drive when DK Metcalf caught a 48-yard touchdown pass, but the play was called back because of holding on receiver David Moore. Wilson threw an interception on the next play that was picked off by rookie Isaiah Simmons.

That gave Gonzalez the chance for redemption. He nailed the winner to knock off the previously undefeated Seahawks and set off a raucous celebration at midfield.

Chiefs 43, Broncos 10

The Kansas City Chiefs didn't need the usual heroics from Patrick Mahomes to rout the Denver Broncos for their 10th straight win over their AFC West rivals.

The Chiefs (6-1) found other ways to dominate Denver (2-4) on a snowy afternoon that began with a temperature of 14 degrees at kickoff.

Kansas City took a 24-9 halftime lead even though Mahomes completed just one pass in the second quarter, a 5-yarder, and had just 99 yards through the air in the first half.

Mahomes finally extended his NFL-leading streak to 17 consecutive games with a touchdown throw when he hit Tyreek Hill from 10 yards with 11 minutes remaining in the fourth quarter.

That made it 37-9 and compelled Broncos pass rusher Bradley Chubb to blow up at his teammates on the sideline.

Mahomes' touchdown throw to Hill followed the Chiefs' fourth takeaway, an interception by Tyrann Mathieu when rookie KJ Hamler let Drew Lock's pass bounce off him and right into the arms of the Chiefs star cornerback.

Mahomes finished a methodical 15 of 23 for 200 yards and a touchdown with no interceptions and four sacks.

Saints 27, Panthers 24

Drew Brees passed for 287 yards and two touchdowns without two top receivers and the Saints quarterback rushed for another score to lead New Orleans to victory.

The Panthers had driven across midfield in the final minutes when Marcus Davenport's sack of Teddy Bridgewater led coach Matt Rhule to send out kicker Joey Slye for a 65-yard field goal on fourth-and-19. The kick fell just short of the crossbar and the Saints (4-2) were able to run out the final 1:55 while the Panthers (3-4) dropped their second straight game.

Brees completed 29 of 36 passes to eight targets despite not having receivers Michael Thomas (hamstring) and Emmanuel Sanders (COVID-19) in the lineup. His decision making and accuracy also helped New Orleans convert 12 of 14 third downs.

Lions 23, Falcons 22

Matthew Stafford connected with T.J. Hockenson on an 11-yard touchdown pass as time expired and Matt Prater booted a 48-yard extra point to give Detroit an improbable victory.

The Lions (3-3) won their second in a row—their first winning streak since early in the 2019 season.

Packers 35, Texans 20

Aaron Rodgers threw for 283 yards and four touchdowns and Green Bay rebounded from its first loss with a win.

Rodgers played a near-flawless game and tied his season high for TD passes. The performance came after he threw two interceptions, including one that was returned for a touchdown, with no TDs in a 38-10 loss to Tampa Bay last week.

Browns 37, Bengals 34

Baker Mayfield overcame a terrible start to throw for five touchdowns, including a 24-yard go-ahead score to Donovan Peoples-Jones with 15 seconds left, and Cleveland outdueled Cincinnati.

Nursing sore ribs, Mayfield started 0 for 5—including an interception on his first attempt of the game. He then completed the next 22 of 23 passes. The last was the leaping grab by People-Jones to win it for the Browns (5-2).

Washington 25, Cowboys 3

Washington's defense finally clamped down on a struggling opponent, piling up six sacks, an interception and a forced fumble that became a safety in a blowout that snapped a five-game skid.

Montez Sweat led Washington (2-5) with 2 1/2 sacks, Cole Holcomb had one to go along with a red zone interception and Landon Collins knocked the ball out of Andy Dalton's hands for an early safety before leaving with an ankle injury. Dalton was under siege all day behind a patchwork offensive line before being knocked out of the game in the third quarter on a shoulder-to-head hit from Jon Bostic, who was ejected.

Bills 18, Jets 10

Josh Allen and the Bills were held out of the end zone for the first time this season, but Tyler Bass tied a franchise record with six field goals to help Buffalo snap a two-game skid over winless New York.

It was the third game in 13 days for the Bills (5-2), who lost to Tennessee and Kansas City before their ugly win against the league-worst Jets (0-7).

Buccaneers 45, Raiders 20

Tom Brady threw four touchdown passes to move past Drew Brees for the most in NFL history and ran for another to lead the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a win over the Las Vegas Raiders.

Brady connected with Rob Gronkowski in the second quarter and on a perfectly placed 33-yarder to Scotty Miller later in the first half. He then helped seal the game with the throw to Chris Godwin that put the Bucs (5-2) up 31-20 over the Raiders (3-3) midway through the fourth quarter.

49ers 33, Patriots 6

Jeff Wilson Jr. rushed for a career-high three touchdowns and 112 yards before leaving with an ankle injury and the San Francisco 49ers dominated the New England Patriots.

49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo finished 20 of 25 for 277 yards with two interceptions in his first game against his former team. San Francisco (4-3) has followed back-to-back losses with two wins and is 3-0 on the road.

Brady passes Brees on NFL's all-time TD pass list

NEW ORLEANS—Tom Brady had himself a day on Sunday.

He etched his name—again—in the NFL record book in the process.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback entered Sunday's game against the Las Vegas Raiders trailing New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees by three scores on the all-time passing touchdown list.

Brees, who passed Peyton Manning on the list last season with his 541st, threw a pair of touchdowns earlier Sunday in a Saints win over the Carolina Panthers. The scores raised his career tally to 558 and increased his tenuous lead over Brady's 555.

On Sunday afternoon, the Bucs offense caught fire against the Raiders, and Brady tied Brees with his third touchdown of the day on a fourth-quarter pass to Chris Godwin. The score increased Tampa Bay's lead to 31-20.

With a chance to pile on and break the record later in the fourth, Brady didn't hesitate. On third-and-goal with 3:13 remaining, Brady found Tyler Johnson in the back of the end zone to increase Tampa Bay's lead to 45-20 and secure his fourth touchdown pass of the day and the 559th of his career.

That score gives him a one-touchdown lead over Brees on the all-time list, a record that now has a chance to bounce back and forth this season with both quarterbacks leading high-scoring offenses.

Brady, 43, has the lead and the stronger pace this season. Brees, 41, raised his 2020 touchdown tally to 11 through six games on Sunday. Brady, meanwhile, lifted his total to 18 touchdowns through seven games.

Can Brees keep pace?

Cantlay steals victory from Rahm, Thomas

CALIFORNIA (AP)—Patrick Cantlay felt his swing was good enough to take on any shot, and then it was a matter of making putts. He did both exceptionally well Sunday in the Zozo Championship at Sherwood for a victory he felt was overdue.

Cantlay rallied from a four-shot deficit and surged into the lead with four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine. He closed with a 7-under 65 and held on for a one-shot victory over Jon Rahm and Justin Thomas.

It was the third victory of his career, and first in his home state of California. All three required making up deficits of three shots or more in the final round.

"I put in a lot of work and try to do the right things all the time, so when it all does come together, it's really rewarding because it's all that hard work paying off," Cantlay said.

He was looking to join what had been shaping up as a duel between Rahm and Thomas, the Nos. 2 and 3 players in the world. Instead, Cantlay surged past them with three straight birdies — a 3-wood to the fringe on the par-5 13th that set up a simple two-putt, a 7-iron to 18 feet on the next hole and the most exquisite shot of his final round on the par-3 15th.

With a three-quarter 7-iron to a front pin over a tiny rock-lined lagoon, the ball landed next to the hole and rolled out to 10 feet for his ninth birdie of the round, and only the fifth birdie at No. 15 on Sunday.

"That's a hard hole and to make a birdie," he said. "It was just one of those swings where you make the swing exactly how you picture it in your head."

That gave him a three-shot cushion, and his challengers never caught up.

AP
Patrick Cantlay hits from the bunker to the 16th green during the final round of the Zozo Championship golf tournament Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

As much as Cantlay celebrated, Rahm and Thomas were left to rue their mistakes.

Rahm took the lead with a birdie on the par-5 11th, only to drop shots on each of the next two holes, including the par-5 13th. The Spaniard had a chance to force a playoff, but narrowly missed from 15 feet on the par-3 17th and from 20 feet on the final hole. He closed with a 68.

"Just a couple of unlucky moments," Rahm said. He said the wind switched on both shots, especially on the 13th, where his second shot flew about 20 yards shorter than he expected and went into a bunker, leaving an awkward distance.

Thomas, who started the round with a one-shot lead, had to scramble for par on the last two par 5s, and hit into hazards on consecutive holes down the stretch. His tee shot to the 15th plugged into thick grass, and Thomas did remarkably well to hack out to 30 feet and make bogey.

Cantlay, in the group ahead of Thomas and Rahm, didn't realize he had a three-shot lead and went after another birdie with a wedge to the par-5 16th, pulling it slightly into a tree and leading to his second bogey of the round.

Thomas drilled a drive and was in perfect position with a 4-iron. But he sent that out to the right, trying to avoid a shot left of the green, and it bounced off a tree and into the creek.

"Pathetic," Thomas said as he watched it sail to the right. "So afraid to hit it left."

After the penalty drop, he had to play a marvelous pitch-and-run off hard pan to get up-and-down for par.

HOUSTON

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brook last offseason, jettisoning point god Chris Paul and draft picks in exchange for the 2017 regular season MVP and two-time NBA scoring leader.

The trade was alluring for Houston, as pairing triple-double threat Westbrook with former OKC teammate James Harden, another MVP and scoring leader, was expected to get the Rockets over the top in the highly competitive Western Conference. In a financial standpoint, the pairing was a huge money risk as the two are owed a total of $377 million in the next five years.

The only problem was Westbrook and Harden play similar as both need the rock in their hands all the time. Unlike The Beard, Brodie also couldn't shoot a lick from outside and this drastically changed Houston's offensive strategy of five-out basketball where 3-point shooters opened driving lanes for Harden to attack the basket and kick out to sharpshooters.

Westbrook's inability to spread the floor also forced the Rockets to trade starting center Clint Capela in mid-season, opting instead to play freshly acquired 6'7" Robert Covington at the 5.

The Harden-Westbrook experiment had a rough start but seemed to be gaining steam until the NBA was forced to shut down in March to COVID-19. When the season resumed more than four months later, Brodie was injured and slowed down by the coronavirus he contacted during the lockdown. The Rockets barely made it past the first round, struggling past a spirited OKC team in seven exciting games led by—you guessed it, Chris Paul—before succumbing to the size and talent of the eventual champions LA Lakers in the second round.

Then in an instant, D'Antoni is gone and Morey followed suit a month later. So, what happens to small ball now? Will Houston trade The Beard and Brodie to the New York Knicks, who always crave megastars with bloated contracts? Will they just keep Harden and then trade Westbrook? But who in their right mind will trade for Westbrook and what's left of his $206-million contract.

Saying that new Houston GM Rafael Jones has a lot in his plate is an understatement and we haven't even talked about D'Antoni's successor in the coaching chair.

So far, the candidates left are former Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy, longtime Houston assistant coach and former NBA player John Lucas, and Dallas Mavericks assistant coach Stephen Silas, who is the son of NBA great and former NBA coach Paul Silas.

Whoever the coaching hire is, one thing's for sure—the Rockets need to rejig their roster one way or the other. Let's face it, small ball won't work without mad scientist D'Antoni and main enabler Morey.

In a way, the departure of the pair is another end of an era in Clutch City. Like how injuries derailed Yao Ming and Tracy McGrady's championship aspirations in the 2000s, bad luck, injuries to Chris Paul, and the ill-fitting tandem of Harden and Westbrook (and before that Dwight Howard, Chris Paul, and Carmelo Anthony) all conspired to ground the Rockets to terra firma.

Come to think of it, Houston won't even have the two championships during the Hakeem Olajuwon era if Michael Jordan didn't retire.

It's been 25 years since former Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich uttered his famous "Don't ever underestimate the heart of a champion" line and by the looks of it, Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta overestimated the heights small ball would take the Houston Rockets. Houston, we indeed have a problem.

MOTOCROSS

From Page 20

The work now begins to rebuild a new track and facilities at the old location. This is a revival of the sport so to speak, as we took a rest period for 10 plus years," MRA president Steve P. Sablan said.

CowTown was home to MRA for a decade before races were called off in 2007 due to economic challenges and the property was returned to DPL.

After more than 10 years, the same people who were active during the races in CowTown regrouped and revived MRA. They started organizing practice races in make-shift courses at the Kan Pacific Pool grounds in Marpi every Sunday, while working on getting a permanent racetrack. With the weekly races on, MRA membership continues to grow and the interest in the sport that was once one of the crowd drawers in the CNMI has been brought back.

Spectators watch riders navigate their way through the course. JOSEPH CHIN

JOSEPH CHIN
A Marianas Racing Association member, left, fixes the bike of a young rider before letting him return to the course at the Kan Pacific grounds during a practice session early this month.

MRA vice president Cuki Alvarez, who was among the riders who raced in CowTown, thanked all the people who helped them secure a temporary track to provide members a venue for practices. He also expressed excitement over racing again in their old stomping ground.

"We are just so happy that we are finally getting our motocross home back after so many years. Cowtown is the perfect place for us and is a great place for our race park. We, the members of MRA just want to thank all the powers that be for making this project come into fruition; DPL, DCCA, the Attorney General and of course the governor. Thank you, secretary Marianne Teregeyo (DPL) for allowing us to use the Kan Pacific grounds the past several months and allowing all our members—kids and adults—to practice and hone their skills. Thank you also to the Saipan Mayor's Office, the Department of Public Works, and all the volunteers for keeping the place beautiful and attractive," Alvarez said.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios, and Robert Hunter, senior policy adviser for the Office of the Governor and former DCCA secretary, will join Alvarez, Sablan, and other MRA members and officials in the signing ceremony this morning at the Kan Pacific grounds.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

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Motocross group gets home back

JOSEPH CHIN
Riders take on the course at the Kan Pacific grounds during the Marianas Racing Association's weekend race in Marpi last Oct. 19..

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Racing Association is getting a permanent home for the staging of its races.

The Marianas Motocross Park will be finally signed over to MRA today after months of working with the Department of Public Lands, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Attorney General's Office, and the Office of the Governor to have a place for the sport and their activities. The Marianas Motocross Park will be built exactly at the same location where the CowTown Raceway Park was used to be, allowing the motocross community to return home after more than a decade.

"It's indeed a big day for motocross and off-road enthusiasts of the CNMI. This is a private and government sector collaborative effort. We are excited to regain our former location where we can host our practice sessions and sanction races.

See MOTOCROSS on Page 19

MARIANAS RACING ASSOCIATION
Young riders pose for a group photo after their practice session.

Houston, we have a problem

MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor

Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

No more head coach Mike D'Antoni

No more general manager Daryl Morey

No more draft picks.

That seems to be what troubles the Houston Rockets as they yet again ended an unfruitful season in the Association—to borrow Pat Riley's words "There's winning, and then there's misery."

The sudden departure of the architects of small ball leaves the Rockets with a Bizarro lineup that couldn't matchup with the LA Lakers, LA Clippers, Denver Nuggets, and the Golden State Warriors of the world, much less the Utah Jazzes, the Dallas Mavericks, the Oklahoma City Thunders, and even Portland Trail Blazers of the West.

They went all in when they traded for Russell West-

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AP
In this Dec. 3, 2019 file photo, Houston Rockets' James Harden, left, talks to Russell Westbrook during overtime of an NBA game against the San Antonio Spurs, in San Antonio.